



## Agency: 2nd U.S. case of person who got virus from community

By ADAM BEAM  
Associated Press

**SAN JOSE (AP) — THIS IS A BREAKING NEWS UPDATE. AP'S EARLIER STORY IS BELOW:**

Health officials have confirmed the second case of novel coronavirus in the United States believed to have been transmitted to a person who didn't travel internationally or come in close contact with anyone who had it. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said Friday that officials are "aware of a second possible instance of community spread of COVID-19 in California." The CDC said in a statement that the patient has tested positive for the virus and is considered a presumptive positive case.

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Solano County Health Officer Dr. Bela Matyas discusses his county's response to a resident diagnosed with coronavirus on Thursday, Feb. 27, 2020, in Fairfield, Calif.

Associated Press





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# Agency: 2nd U.S. case of person who got virus from community

Continued from Front

Health officials in San Jose said the patient was an older adult woman with chronic health conditions who does not have a travel history or any known contact with a traveler or infected person. It comes a day after state officials said a woman hospitalized at UC Davis Health Center in Sacramento had contracted the illness after no known contact.

"This new case indicates that there is evidence of community transmission, but the extent is still not clear," said Dr. Sara Cody, Health Officer for Santa Clara County and Director of the County of Santa Clara Public Health Department.

Cody said the woman is not linked to two previous cases in Santa Clara County or others in the state.

The Santa Clara County resident was treated at a local hospital and is not known to have traveled to Solano County, where public health officials have identified dozens of people



**Eugenia Kendall, right, wears a mask outside of the Vacaville City Hall while standing with her husband, Ivan, Thursday, Feb. 27, 2020, in Vacaville, Calif.**

Associated Press

— but less than 100 — who had close contact with the case announced Thursday. They are quarantined in their homes, and a few who have shown symptoms are in isolation, officials said.

Health officials on Friday confirmed another case of the novel coronavirus in Northern California, raising the tally a day after health officials revealed the first case in the U.S. believed to have been transmitted to a person who didn't travel

internationally or come in close contact with anyone who had it.

Santa Clara County Public Health Department spokesman Maury Kendall said the person is isolated at home and that other details would be provided later Friday.

A day earlier, state health officials had pegged the number of people in California with the virus at 33 after investigators announced that a woman hospitalized in Sacramento contracted it.

Residents of the community where the woman first went to the hospital, in Vacaville, are at the epicenter of what officials are calling a turning point in the spread of the highly contagious coronavirus.

As infectious disease experts fanned out in Vacaville, some residents in the city of 100,000 stocked up on supplies amid fears things could get worse despite official reassurances, while others took the news in stride.

Vacaville lies between San Francisco and Sacramento in Solano County, in the agricultural central valley and near California's famous wine region.

It is about 10 miles (16 kilometers) from Travis Air Force Base, which has been used as a virus quarantine location. Public health officials said they can find no connection between the infected woman and passengers on the Diamond Princess cruise ship who were evacuated to the

base when the ship was docked in Japan. The case of the infected woman marks an escalation of the worldwide outbreak in the U.S. because it means the virus could spread beyond the reach of preventative measures like quarantines, though state health officials said that was inevitable and that the risk of widespread transmission remains low.

California public health officials on Friday said 8,700 people are self-monitoring after arriving on commercial flights from China through Los Angeles and San Francisco. That's up from the 8,400 that Gov. Gavin Newsom cited on Thursday, though officials said the number increases daily as more flights arrive. Solano County Public Health Officer Dr. Bela Matyas said public health officials have identified dozens of people — but less than 100 — who had close contact with the woman there. They are quarantined in their homes and a few who have shown symptoms are in isolation, Matyas said. Officials are not too worried, for now, about casual contact, because federal officials think the coronavirus is spread only through "close contact, being within six feet of somebody for what they're calling a prolonged period of time," said Dr. James Watt, interim state epidemiologist at the California Department of Public Health.

The virus can cause fever, coughing, wheezing and pneumonia. Health officials think it spreads mainly from droplets when an infected person coughs or sneezes, similar to how the flu spreads.

"I'm definitely going to wear my mask and gloves at work, because I'm a server," said Vacaville bowling alley worker Denise Arriaga, who said she doesn't care if she's criticized for the extra precautions.

"At the end of the day, it's my life," she said.

The woman first sought treatment at NorthBay VacaValley Hospital in Vacaville, before her con-

dition worsened and she was transferred to the medical center.

Confusion over how quickly the woman was tested for coronavirus concerned McKinsey Paz, who works at a private security firm in Vacaville. The company has already stockpiled 450 face masks and is scrambling for more "since they're hard to come by." The company's owner bought enough cleaning and disinfectant supplies to both scrub down the office and send home with employees. But they appeared to be at the extreme for preparations.

Eugenia Kendall was wearing a face mask, but in fear of anything including the common cold. Her immune system is impaired because she is undergoing chemotherapy, and she has long been taking such precautions.

"We're not paranoid. We're just trying to be practical," said her husband of 31 years, Ivan Kendall. "We wipe the shopping carts if they have them, and when I get back in the car I wipe my hands — and just hope for the best."

In their investigation of the movements of the hospitalized woman, officials were trying to figure out how she got it and who else she may have unwittingly infected.

They are interviewing immediate family members and expanding their net to include more distant family members who may have been in contact, social gatherings like church that the patient may have attended and any possible time spent at work or events like a concert.

Besides the woman, all the 59 other cases in the U.S. have been for people who traveled abroad or had close contact with others who traveled.

Earlier U.S. cases included 14 in people who returned from outbreak areas in China, or their spouses; three people who were evacuated from the central China city of Wuhan; and 42 American passengers on the Diamond Princess cruise ship. □

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# U.S. reports first drug shortage tied to virus outbreak

By **MATTHEW PERRONE** and **LINDA A. JOHNSON**

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) —

Health officials reported the first U.S. drug shortage tied to the viral outbreak that is disrupting production in China, but they declined to identify the manufacturer or the product.

The Food and Drug Administration said late Thursday that the drug's maker recently contacted officials about the shortage, which it blamed on a manufacturing issue with the medicine's key ingredient.

Regulators stressed that alternative medicines are available to treat patients. The FDA previously said it had reached out to 180 drug manufacturers and asked them to check their supply chain and report any potential disruptions. The agency also said it had identified 20 drugs produced or sourced exclusively from China, but it declined to name them.

The FDA has good reason to not release the names of drugs facing potential shortages, said Rosemary Gibson, who wrote the book "China Rx" on that nation's role in American health care.

"People might rush to buy it and that would create a worse situation," said Gibson, a senior adviser at bioethics research group The Hastings Center. "In the context of shortages globally, you have to be very, very careful."

More than 83,000 COVID-19 cases have been reported worldwide, nearly 79,000 of them in mainland China. Government officials there have severely restricted travel and imposed strict quarantine measures to try and stop the virus from spreading.

Restrictions on movements of people and goods have been imposed by at least 90 countries, and that's disrupting flow of drugs and raw materials, said Nicolette Louissaint, executive director of Healthcare Ready, a nonprofit group

funded by drug distributors, government and foundations that tracks the impact of epidemics and natural disasters.

For decades, the pharmaceutical industry has shifted manufacturing to China, India and other countries to take advantage of cheaper labor and materials.

Today, roughly 80 percent of the ingredients used in U.S. medicines are made abroad, according to federal figures.

India and other Asian nations rely on Chinese drug ingredients to make finished generic pills.

China ranks second among countries that send drugs and biotech medicines to the U.S., according to the FDA.

It is also the top exporter of medical devices and equipment to the U.S.

The country is a major producer of antibiotics for the U.S. market, as well ingredients and medicines for common chronic conditions such as heart disease, said Louissaint.

The virus, which led to strict travel restrictions in Chinese cities home to more than 60 million people, has affected a range of industries.

Some factories have tried to restart and run into problems getting the raw materials and components they need.

Chinese factories making pharmaceutical ingredients and drugs are still operating, with some trying to produce far more than usual and others still trying to get workers back, Louissaint said Friday.

Cargo carriers are still transporting those products from China to other countries, she said.

"It is challenging," but fortunately Chinese ports have remained open, Louissaint said.

She added that the FDA's announcement of the shortage indicates the FDA's tracking efforts are working and drugmakers are communicating with

the agency. The FDA said Thursday there are no reported medical device shortages related to the coronavirus.

However, the agency said several Chinese device manufacturing facilities are being "adversely affected" by the outbreak due to staffing problems, including workers who have been quarantined.

The FDA said it is in touch with 63 device manufacturers with Chinese facilities that produce "essential" medical devices.

While noting increased orders for masks, respirators, gloves and other protective gear, regulators said there are no reported



This Aug. 2, 2018, file photo shows the U.S. Food and Drug Administration building behind FDA logos at a bus stop on the agency's campus in Silver Spring, Md.

Associated Press

shortages of those items in the U.S.

Under a 2012 law, drugmakers are required to notify the FDA of production or sourcing issues that could create medication shortages.

The agency noted this week that medical device manufacturers are not bound by that law and "are not required to respond when the FDA requests information about potential supply chain disruptions." □

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## House approves bill to ban the sale of flavored e-cigarettes

By **MATTHEW DALY**  
**Associated Press**

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Moving to stem a vaping epidemic among young people, the House approved a bill Friday to ban the sale of flavored e-cigarettes and other flavored tobacco products.

The bill would place new restrictions on the marketing of e-cigarettes and ban flavors in tobacco products, including menthol cigarettes. It also would place a new excise tax on nicotine.

The House approved the bill, 213-195, sending it to the Senate, where approval is considered unlikely. The White House said in a statement that President Donald Trump's administration opposes the bill.



**Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., displays an advocacy ad that criticizes the tobacco and vaping industry for allegedly targeting young African-Americans, during a news conference on Capitol Hill in Washington, Thursday, Feb. 27, 2020.**

**Associated Press**

Supporters, mostly Democrats, said the legislation provides a comprehensive strategy to reverse a teen

vaping epidemic that officials fear is hooking a generation of young people on nicotine. In the latest

government survey, more than 1 in 4 high school students reported using e-cigarettes in the previous month. Late last year, Congress approved a law raising the minimum age to buy all tobacco and vaping products from 18 to 21 nationwide.

Opponents said the House bill went too far, noting that the new law raising the age of tobacco use has been in effect for only two months. Earlier this year, the Trump administration issued rules that prohibit fruit, candy, mint and desert flavors from small, cartridge-based e-cigarettes like Juul, the most popular brand in the U.S.

Some members of the Congressional Black Caucus said the proposal to ban menthol cigarettes could harm black smokers. African Americans smoke menthol cigarettes at a far higher rate than the rest of the U.S. population, according to the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Marketing and promotion of menthol cigarettes is heavily targeted toward black smokers.

"White adult smokers would see little difference in their lives after this ban, while black smokers could face even more sweeping harassment from law enforcement if the hint of menthol smoke can justify a stop" by a police officer, said Rep. Yvette Clarke, D-N.Y.

"A ban that targets menthol products but ignores other premium tobacco products unduly burdens the black community," said Clarke, whose Brooklyn district is majority African American.

Clarke invoked Eric Garner, a black New York man who died after being put in a chokehold by police officers who stopped him for

selling loose, untaxed cigarettes.

"As Eric Garner's mother knows all too well, in New York a single cigarette can become a death sentence," Clarke said.

Supporters said the House bill would have huge health benefits for teenagers who increasingly use e-cigarettes and vape products with flavors such as mango, bubble gum and cotton candy.

E-cigarettes are battery-powered devices that typically heat a flavored nicotine solution into an inhalable aerosol. They have been pitched to adults as a less-harmful alternative to traditional cigarettes, but there is limited data on their ability to help smokers quit.

More than 6 million American middle and high school students used some type of tobacco product last year.

"Tobacco companies will not give up, but we will not, either," said Rep. Donna Shalala, D-Fla., a former Health and Human Services secretary who co-sponsored the bill.

Vaping "is the public health crisis of the 21st century," Shalala said, adding that nicotine exposure during youth and young adulthood is particularly dangerous. Children who use flavored e-cigarettes likely would not do so without flavors that mask the product's harshness, she and other supporters said.

"It's clear the tobacco industry has employed the same tactics that they have used for decades to hook young people on new versions of their products in order to generate new customers that will be addicted for life," said Rep. Frank Pallone, D-N.J., the bill's lead sponsor. □



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ONLINE****Chicago police boost mass transit presence amid crime spike****By DON BABWIN**  
**Associated Press**

**CHICAGO (AP)** — A spike in crime on Chicago's rail system and some recent high profile outbursts of violence has prompted the city's police department to put 50 more officers in trains and on platforms and assign four detectives to investigate nothing but Chicago Transit Authority crimes, officials announced Friday.

The announcement by Mayor Lori Lightfoot and Interim Chicago Police Superintendent Charlie Beck came just days after riders began seeing more police SWAT officers boarding trains and manning platforms on the nation's second largest public transit system.

The additional 50 officers brings the number of officers assigned to the Mass Transit Unit to 250.

The department also announced it will this spring open a Strategic Decision Support Center devoted to the CTA, similar to the ones it already has in police districts around the city. The technology centers allow law enforcement to respond to crime scenes quicker and develop crime-fighting strategies based on the data that's collected.

Four detectives and a crime analyst will be assigned to the CTA center. They will be able to monitor in real time more than 32,000 cameras installed on every train and bus, in rail stations and elsewhere on CTA property. The department said such focus will allow officers to respond to violent crimes and thefts far quicker than they can now.

Beck said in a statement that the "technology-

based policing" that has helped reduce violent crime in Chicago over the past three years will do the same for the CTA.

Last year, the number of violent crimes, including assault and robbery, on public transport climbed significantly.

According to an analysis by the Chicago Tribune, the number of violent crimes on the CTA rail system jumped from 447 in 2018 to 590 last year.

And in recent weeks, concern about passenger safety has only grown in the wake of a shooting in a downtown CTA tunnel that left one person dead and two wounded. Separately, a man was shot in the back at a train stop near the University of Illinois-Chicago, and another man was stabbed at a CTA stop on the city's South Side. □



In this Sept. 17, 2014 file photo, two Chicago Transit Authority elevated trains can be seen above Wabash Avenue in Chicago's famed Loop.

Associated Press

**Report: Los Angeles deputies shared Kobe Bryant crash photos****By STEFANIE DAZIO**  
**Associated Press**

**LOS ANGELES (AP)** — Authorities are investigating whether deputies shared graphic photos of the helicopter crash scene where Kobe Bryant, his 13-year-old daughter and seven others were killed, according to a newspaper report. The Los Angeles Times reported that a public safety source with knowledge of the events had seen one of the photos on the phone of another official in a setting that was not related to the investigation of the crash. He said the photos showed the scene and victims' remains.

The source spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitive nature of the allegations.

Los Angeles County Sheriff's Deputy Maria Lucero told The Associated Press on Friday that "the matter is being looked into."

The Association for Los Angeles Deputy Sheriffs, the union that represents rank-and-file deputies, did not immediately return requests for comment.

The Times reported that it's unclear how widely the photos might have been disseminated and who was involved.

It's additionally unclear whether the deputies had taken the photos themselves or received them from someone else.

Capt. Jorge Valdez, a spokesman for the sheriff's department, said the department had contacted the victims' families be-

cause of the newspaper's inquiries.

Bryant and the others were killed in the Jan. 26 helicopter crash northwest of Los Angeles were traveling to a youth basketball tournament at Bryant's sports facility in Thousand Oaks. The cause of the crash is undetermined.

Bryant and his daughter Gianna, whose team was coached by her father, were honored at a public memorial Monday at Staples Center, where Bryant starred for most of his 20-year career with the Los Angeles Lakers.

A report by the National Transportation Safety Board stated there weren't any signs of engine failure from the wreckage recovered from the crash site.

The pilot, Ara Zobayan, clouds when it turned and had nearly navigated the plunged into the mountain-helicopter out of blinding side. □

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# Census hiccups in Alaska may offer preview for rest of U.S.

By **MIKE SCHNEIDER and MARK THIESSEN**  
**Associated Press**

**ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP)**

— More than a month into the start of the 2020 census in rural Alaska, some workers going door to door have grown frustrated by not knowing when they will get their next assignments. Others have bought gear to protect against the brutal cold only to find out they're not getting paid back.

And a smartphone app to log hours worked is difficult to use in the field, census takers told The Associated Press.

The counting underway in America's last frontier may preview some of the challenges that could crop up as the rest of the country is counted this spring.

And while conditions in rural Alaska pose unique obstacles, both logistically and weather wise, some of the nuts-and-bolts hiccups that have surfaced point to a learning curve for what the Census Bureau touts as the largest peacetime operation that the U.S. government undertakes.

"The IT system goes down. You can't log in your time or expenses, or your training or your regular work," said Stephan Patterson, a census taker from Palmer, roughly 40 miles (64 kilometers) northeast of Anchorage, Alaska's largest city. Census takers started flying out to rural Alaska villages in January to join local hires in questioning residents in person.

Mail service is spotty and internet connectivity is unreliable, making door-to-door canvassing the best way to gather responses. The villages get a head start on the census because many people scatter in the spring to subsistence hunting and fishing grounds.

The rest of the nation will get the chance to answer the 2020 questionnaire starting in mid-March, either online, by mail or by telephone.

This is the first count in which the Census Bureau is encouraging a majority of people to answer the questions online.

Starting in May, hundreds of thousands of census takers will be sent to homes nationwide to knock on

and say, 'Where am I going next?' And you really don't get an answer."

Schramm and Patterson

temporary work conditions of the census, specifically in remote Alaska," the statement said. "We alert our

with no experience leading folks with no experience," he said.

When it comes to what to wear in Alaska, the bureau says it provided census takers with a suggested packing list that included gear for the harsh weather, but the workers were told they wouldn't be reimbursed for additional purchases.

Parts of remote Alaska have low internet connectivity so the Census Bureau has been using paper payroll as a backup for its time-sheet app to "ensure employees receive pay on time."

Field supervisors also text or call in census takers' hours, the agency said.

Patterson and Schramm said they have heard from other census workers about not getting paid on time.

"We do everything we can to ensure our employees are paid on time," the Census Bureau statement said.

Lawmakers on the House Oversight and Reform Committee raised concerns this month about whether key technology for the 2020 census was ready. The committee knows about the concerns over census technology in Alaska and is seeking more information, according to a committee statement.

Another census taker in Alaska, Cynthia, who only wanted her first name used for fear of losing her job, wished there had been more survival training for census takers from outside Alaska who are not accustomed to the harsh winter conditions.

Temperatures can drop to 40 below zero.

While the smartphone app could have been more user-friendly, the bureau's hardworking IT workers "have been very calm and very nice" in helping her use it when she had problems, she said.

"There are glitches, but you have to think about how many people they're handling," she said, referring to the Census Bureau. "They do it every 10 years, so I think they tend to forget some things. It's a learning curve for everybody." □



In this Friday, Feb. 21, 2020 photo, Stephan Patterson poses for a photo in Anchorage, Alaska.

Associated Press

the doors of residents who haven't answered the questionnaire yet. The Census Bureau is planning on hiring up to 500,000 temporary workers to help with the once-a-decade count that determines how \$1.5 trillion in federal spending is distributed and how many congressional seats each state gets.

In Alaska, census taker Carl Schramm said he's had fun going to rugged territory. But he said it's inconsistent work. Some census takers have become frustrated, he said, by having to wait at home for their next assignment without any guidance or pay.

"A lack of communication is the No. 1 problem," said Schramm, a retiree from Wasilla. "You don't know basically what's happening from day to day."

When you get back from an assignment, you call

say some census takers have quit, either because they weren't getting paid enough to cover their bills or because conditions were harsher than expected.

The canvassing takes place in frigid weather in villages where sometimes the only place to sleep is on the floor of a government building. In a statement, the Census Bureau said the turnover rate for hires for the rural Alaska count has been lower than expected and some trips have been rescheduled because of unpredictable weather.

The agency said Friday that the retention rate has been about 90% for hires, who include 172 local census takers, 158 census takers from outside rural Alaska villages and 125 field supervisors.

"We do everything we can to communicate to our census takers about the

census takers that at times we may need to stay in schools or gyms when enumerating a village. We try to make the accommodations as best as possible."

Census takers in Alaska are getting paid \$28 an hour for work in the field.

The Census Bureau pays for their transportation to the remote villages, provides cellphones and gives them a per diem for expenses. But Alaska has one of the highest costs of living of anywhere in the U.S., and a gallon of milk can cost more than \$10.

Because the census only happens every 10 years, there's no institutional knowledge among supervisors when questions arise, such as how to classify a salmon-canning factory where workers are living or a trailer that's not listed on any map, Schramm said.

"To some extent, it's folks





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This photo from video provided by KGTU-10 News shows the rescue of some of 13 people after a suspected immigrant smuggling boat dropped the group off in the ocean on the Southern California coast early off Del Mar, Calif., Friday, Feb. 28, 2020.

Associated Press

## 13 suspected immigrants rescued from ocean off California

**DEL MAR, Calif. (AP)** — Southern California life-guardians rescued 13 people and were searching for others believed to have been dropped off early Friday by Mexican migrant smugglers in the Pacific Ocean, authorities said. As many as three people remained missing based on information from the group of men and women rescued along the coast at Del Mar, an upscale beach town about 30 miles (48 kilometers) north of the Mexico border, U.S. Border Patrol spokesman agent Jarrett Decker said. Over the past decade, smugglers have increasingly turned to using the sea to get people into the U.S. and avoid trying to avoid multiple barriers on land along the California-Mexico border and highway

checkpoints. Smugglers can charge considerably more money taking people by sea. A few migrants have been killed when boats overturned in the San Diego surf. Others have been found clinging to an overturned boat. "This is extremely dangerous," Decker said. All 13 were taken to a hospital to be treated for hypothermia, Decker said. The group told authorities there were two smugglers on board who told them to swim ashore. Coast Guard crews flying overhead were also attempting Friday to locate the boat known as a "panga" that the smugglers used to transport the migrants, though it is suspected it returned to Mexico, Decker said. □



This Oct. 17, 2018 file photo shows damage to the Hudson River rail tunnel in New York.

Associated Press

## New York rail tunnel repairs could mean more rider headaches

By **DAVID PORTER**  
Associated Press

**NEW YORK (AP)** — The news that Amtrak will ramp up repairs to its century-old Hudson River rail tunnel while a project to build a new tunnel languishes likely will translate into more headaches for already beleaguered commuters. U.S. Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao told a House subcommittee Thursday that federal officials are working with Amtrak on a plan to accelerate the work now on the 110-year-old tunnel. The new tunnel, proposed nine years ago as part of the larger Gateway project to transform rail capacity in the New York region, is mired in a funding dispute between the federal government and New York and

New Jersey and currently is ineligible for federal grants. Amtrak already shuts down one of the existing tunnel's two tubes during overnight and weekend hours to repair damage accelerated by flooding from 2012's Superstorm Sandy. The Gateway plan called for shutting down the tunnel for a complete overhaul once a new tunnel is built, but Chao said Thursday that beginning the repair work now "is the right move." She noted that building a new tunnel would take seven to 10 years and cost an estimated \$11 billion, under the most favorable conditions. The new plan calls for more extensive repairs that will require further service disruptions, said Stephen Gardner, Amtrak's senior executive vice president

and chief operating and commercial officer. "We're trying to balance what we can do now with the impacts of doing it now," Gardner told The Associated Press at a transportation conference in New York on Thursday. "If we have to curtail rush hour for the next five years to do some interim work, there's huge impacts to that. So we're trying to find that right balance." The most disruptive repairs could "require a complete outage at some point," he added. The problems — including water leaking in, crumbling walls, an outdated track bed and overhead wire issues — are so extensive that they won't all be repaired, even under the new plan, Gardner conceded. □



# Nigeria confirms 1st case of new virus in sub-Saharan Africa

By BASHIR ADIGUN and CARA ANNA

Associated Press

**ABUJA, Nigeria (AP)** — Nigerian authorities on Friday confirmed the first case of the new coronavirus in sub-Saharan Africa as the outbreak spread to a region with some of the world's weakest health systems.

The health commissioner for Lagos, Africa's largest city with more than 20 million people, said an Italian citizen who entered Nigeria on Tuesday from Milan on a business trip fell ill the next day. Commissioner Akin Abayomi said the man was clinically stable with no serious symptoms.

Abayomi said officials were working to identify all of the man's contacts in Nigeria. The Italian had traveled on Turkish Airlines to Istanbul and then to Lagos, according to health authorities. Lagos state early this month advised people arriving from virus-affected areas to observe 14 days of self-quarantine.

"I have seen him this morning, he is in high spirits," said Dr. Bowale Abimbola, medical director of the hospital where the 44-year-old Italian was brought with body aches and fever. "He is doing well and we expect that he will continue to do well."

Nigerian health authorities urged Lagos residents to take measures such as keeping their distance from people who cough and washing their hands regularly.

Cases of the virus also were confirmed in Egypt and Algeria in north Africa in re-



**A woman wearing a face mask walks at the Yaba Mainland hospital where an Italian citizen who entered Nigeria on Tuesday from Milan on a business trip, the first case of the COVID-19 virus is being treated in Lagos Nigeria Friday, Feb. 28, 2020.**

cent days. Until then, some global health experts had expressed surprise that no cases had been reported in Africa.

Concerns about the virus spreading to countries with weaker health systems led the World Health Organization to declare the outbreak a global health emergency last month. WHO officials in Africa have warned that health systems could be overwhelmed. Nigeria is one of 13 African countries classified by the WHO as high priority in this outbreak because of direct links to China or a high number of visitors from there.

That Nigeria's first case came from overseas and wasn't person-to-person transmission inside Africa "shows that the Nigerian government had the right systems in place to detect and confirm this case," Trudie Lang, director of The

Global Health Network at the Nuffield Department of Medicine and the University of Oxford, said in a statement. But detection of further cases in Africa will be challenging as more inexpensive testing kits are needed for on-the-spot diagnosis, Lang added.

The Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has hurried to train its 54 member countries in testing for the virus. Just two countries had the capability at the beginning of this month. Now more than two dozen have it, including Nigeria.

Africa Centers for Disease Control has deployed an epidemiologist to Nigeria and shipped 1,000 additional testing kits, according to Africa CDC director Dr. John Nkengasong.

"Nigeria is well capacitated to respond to the outbreak," he said. "Africa

CDC had anticipated that COVID-19 outbreak would inevitably impact Africa and has been working actively with African Union Member States and partners on preparedness and response to the disease in the continent."

Most African airlines with direct flights to China quickly suspended them, and countries activated surveillance and quarantine measures. Many had experience with trying to prevent the spread of the devastating West Africa Ebola outbreak that ended in 2016. Global health experts point to that as a sign of preparedness in this outbreak. The Africa CDC was created in response to the Ebola outbreak, and many countries established public health institutes.

Nigeria was praised for quickly containing cases when the Ebola outbreak

reached there in 2014 after an infected man from Liberia landed in Lagos. Nineteen people were infected and seven died, but officials were praised for effective public awareness campaigns.

"The Ebola outbreak taught us a lot of lessons," the director of the Nigeria Center for Disease Control, Chikwe Ihekweazu, wrote in a commentary for The Conversation last month. As of December, all 36 of Nigeria's states had a rapid response team in case of a disease outbreak, he wrote, and 22 states had emergency operations centers.

Nigeria is also currently dealing with an outbreak of Lassa fever — an indication of the health challenges that many African nations face.

With the new virus case announced in Nigeria, Africa's most populous country with 190 million people and numerous air links around the continent and beyond, other nations warned of possible spread.

"Given these recent developments globally and in Africa, it is not unlikely that we will have importation of COVID-19 to South Africa," that country's National Institute for Communicable Diseases said.

Separately, South Africa said two citizens who had been working on the Princess Diamond cruise ship have the virus and will stay in Japan for treatment. South Africa said it was informed by Japanese authorities Tuesday after the quarantine on the ship ended. □

## Cyprus says Turkey deliberately sent it migrants for months

By MENELAOS HADJICOSTIS

Associated Press

**NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP)** — Cyprus' interior minister on Friday accused Turkey of deliberately channeling migrants for months to the ethnically-divided island's Greek Cypriot south to change the composition of its population.

Nicos Nouris said up to two-thirds of arriving migrants reach the internationally-recognized south through the breakaway Turkish Cypriot north that's recognized only by Turkey.

"We maintain that there is a very specific purpose and aim, which is to alter the island's demographic character, and clearly we cannot

continue to accept (migrants) in such numbers," Nouris told The Associated Press.

The Cypriot government sees this as a long-running issue.

Unlike fellow European Union-member Greece, Cyprus did not see a wave of migrants trying to enter Friday after Turkey said it would no longer hold them back following its military losses in Syria.

Cyprus was split along ethnic lines in 1974 when Turkey invaded following a coup by supporters of union with Greece. Cyprus joined the EU in 2004, but only the Greek Cypriot south enjoys full membership benefits.

Nouris said Cyprus currently hosts 21,000 asylum seekers — or 3.8% of its population. Most are from the Middle East, chiefly Syria, and Asia. Another 12,000 have been granted asylum.

Cyprus is looking to the EU for additional financial and material support to help cope with migrant inflows.

Nouris was in Brussels last week to argue for a comprehensive EU migration policy allowing a fairer distribution of migrants who have been granted asylum.

He said European Commission Vice-President Margaritis Schinas will visit Cyprus in the near future to assess the situation. □



## Parents slam Serbia bill in chilling 'missing babies' cases

By JOVANA GEC  
Associated Press

**BELGRADE, Serbia (AP)** — For years, Mirjana Novokmet has tried to find out what happened to her first child back in 1978.

Novokmet, only 19-years-old at the time, was told at a Belgrade clinic that her baby boy was stillborn. She wasn't allowed to see him, and she has not been able to determine with certainty why he died or where he is buried. More than 40 years later, Novokmet is still searching for the truth. For her, the mystery surrounding her baby's death can mean only one thing.

"I am certain that he is alive," she said in an interview with The Associated Press. "I believe someone took him or sold him, within or outside the country."

Novokmet is not alone — hundreds of families in Serbia have voiced similar suspicions after being unable to collect their deceased children's medical records or locate their place of burial.

The chilling scandal made it to the European Court of Human Rights, which ruled against Serbia in 2013 demanding that authorities create a mechanism to provide answers to parents in similar situations.

As a result, Serbian lawmakers are set to soon pass the long-awaited bill designed to try to establish the details of the cases in court proceedings or offer compensation when the facts cannot be determined.

Praised by the authorities as the right way forward, the bill has been criticized by the parents' associations and independent experts who argue that it will serve to pay out the families rather than establish the truth. In a last minute effort to address the criticism, Prime Minister Ana Brnabic on Friday evening announced changes to the bill that envisage forming a joint commission with the parents' representatives to handle the cases.

"We are in a very unfortunate situation," Assistant



In this photo taken Monday, Feb. 24, 2020, Mirjana Novokmet speaks during a protest in front of the parliament building in Belgrade, Serbia.

Associated Press

Justice Minister Cedomir Backovic told The Associated Press. "Whatever we did wouldn't be good enough." The draft bill dealing with the disappearance of children from Serbian birth clinics envisages that judges at four Serbian courts will be in charge of the procedures in any specific case, while any investigative work will be carried out by specially-trained police officers.

Where the fate of the missing babies cannot be determined, families will get compensation of up to 10,000 euros (\$10,800.) Backovic said the idea is to introduce some order into the "chaos" that dates back as far as the 1960s and the era of the former Yugoslavia — a former Communist-run federation whose breakup created seven new nations. While criminal action is a likely cause in some instances, state negligence also played a part, Backovic added. The Strasbourg-based court's ruling against Serbia said the state violated Zorica Jovanovic's rights when it did not provide credible information about her child's death or burial. The court initially gave Serbia one year to set up a mechanism to grant information to hundreds of other families in similar situations. Critics of the proposed bill insist it won't establish a strong enough legal basis to uncover what they believe was an organized criminal enterprise that for decades kidnapped ba-

bies from hospitals. At a protest earlier this week outside the parliament building in Belgrade, a few dozen parents demanded that the bill be withdrawn, angry that it would allow for cases to be dropped if they seem unsolvable.

"No mother will agree to sell the truth about her baby for 10,000 euros," Novokmet said. Novokmet showed the AP an autopsy report for her baby that appeared to have no official stamp, along with a report from a pathology institute supposedly listing her baby's tissue samples as someone else's.

The Belgrade state funeral company, which manages the city cemeteries, has stated that it never registered a burial or cremation for a baby born in Jan. 1978 bearing her surname, Novokmet said.

Other cases bear striking similarities, she insisted. Hardly any of the parents were allowed to see, name or bury the babies who were usually born on weekends or holidays and mostly to young mothers, she said. Sometimes, parents were told records about their children were destroyed in a flood or a fire.

"Names of certain doctors and certain registrars appear frequently and that is why we believe it was an organized criminal group," Novokmet added. "We have been fighting this battle for 17 years and the state has turned a blind eye." □

## Historic Paris train station evacuated due to nearby fire



Firefighters walk past charred vehicles after a fire near the Gare de Lyon train station Friday, Feb. 28, 2020 in Paris.

Associated Press

By ANGELA CHARLTON  
Associated Press

**PARIS (AP)** — Police evacuated an historic Paris train station on Friday after a fire engulfed multiple vehicles and sent a large cloud of black smoke over the neighborhood. Police said the fire was under control by nightfall near Gare de Lyon train station. At one point, the station's landmark clock tower was engulfed in smoke.

Paris police said they arrested 54 persons on the margins of a Congolese rapper's concert at nearby Accorhotels Arena concert hall, near the banks of the Seine River. Someone set fire to a

scooter near the train station, and the flames quickly spread to other vehicles nearby, a police official said. The official was not authorized to be named publicly.

Authorities urged people to avoid the area in eastern Paris while emergency workers fight the fire. Paris police said they have no reports of injuries.

Tensions arose around a concert by Congolese rapper Fally Ipupa, amid political tensions between those for and against the regime in the Democratic Republic of Congo. An important community of people from the African, French-speaking country lives in the Paris region. □



### Farmers Market

March 1st 10:00-2:00 pm

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At the OSTRICH FARM



# Ex-Philippine official warns of 'tragedy' if U.S. pact ends

By JIM GOMEZ

Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines (AP) —

A former Philippine foreign secretary warned Friday that the president's decision to end a key U.S. security pact will undermine the ability of American forces to help the country deal with major disasters and deter aggression in the disputed South China Sea.

Former Foreign Secretary Albert del Rosario cited the deployment of more than 13,000 American military personnel, dozens of aircraft and U.S. Navy ships under the Visiting Forces Agreement when Typhoon Haiyan ravaged the central Philippines in 2013.

"Other countries wanted to immediately respond but were constrained by the lack of legal arrangements for their troops to enter the Philippines," del Rosario told a Manila forum where the repercussions of President Rodrigo Duterte's decision to terminate the VFA were discussed.

Duterte's administration notified the U.S. government two weeks ago that it intends to abrogate the 1998 agreement, which allows the entry of large numbers of American forces for joint training with Filipino troops, including disaster-response maneuvers, and lays down the legal terms for their



Former Philippines Foreign Secretary Albert del Rosario talks during a forum in Makati, metropolitan Manila, Philippines on Friday, Feb. 28, 2020.

Associated Press

temporary stay. The termination will take effect after 180 days unless both sides agree to keep the agreement.

"What is unfolding before us is a national tragedy which should be resisted," del Rosario said. "As a democratic and republican country, we do not believe that one man alone can make this damaging choice for our people."

The move by Duterte, known for his disdain of U.S. security policies while praising China and Russia, would be a major setback for the two countries' de-

cades-long treaty alliance. Haiyan was one of the most ferocious typhoons on record and left more than 7,300 people dead or missing, flattened entire villages, swept ships inland and displaced more than 5 million people.

Del Rosario, who was foreign secretary when Haiyan struck, said the U.S. government delivered 2,500 tons of relief supplies and evacuated more than 21,000 people to safety.

Duterte defended his decision Wednesday, saying the Philippines can survive and address a long-running

communist insurgency and threats by Muslim extremists in the largely Roman Catholic nation's south without American military assistance. "Do we need America to survive as a nation?" Duterte asked. "Do we need ... the might and power of the military of the United States to fight our rebellion here and the terrorists down south and control drugs?"

"The military and police said, 'Sir, we can do it,'" Duterte said. Philippine Ambassador to Washington Jose Manuel Romualdez told the forum there

are efforts to find a way to keep American special forces who provide counterterrorism training, intelligence and advice to Filipino troops in the southern Philippines. There should be efforts to study how the VFA can be "polished" or improved using other similar status of forces agreements, including one the Philippines forged with Australia, Romualdez said.

"From what I'm told, the door is not totally shut," he said, without elaborating. "But, again, the bottom line always falls on sovereignty and that is the reason why it is a very ticklish and a very sensitive issue for both our countries in discussing what we want to do moving forward."

Del Rosario said the country's alliance with Washington appears to have deterred China from undertaking reclamation and construction in Scarborough Shoal, a disputed fishing area off the northwestern Philippines that China effectively seized after a tense standoff in 2012.

China has claimed virtually the entire South China Sea, where the U.S. military presence has been seen by some rival claimants as a crucial counterweight in a busy waterway where they fear an armed conflict could erupt. □

## Publisher, 2 politicians charged over Hong Kong protests

HONG KONG (AP) — Outspoken Hong Kong publisher Jimmy Lai and two prominent opposition politicians were charged Friday with illegal assembly over a pro-democracy march last year as the territory's Beijing-backed government appeared to move to settle scores over the protests. The months of demonstrations calling for reforms in semi-autonomous Hong Kong crippled its economy and put its leaders and police force under unprecedented pressure.

Lai was picked up from his home by police officers early Friday, while former pro-democracy legislator Yeung Sum and former

legislator and vice chairman of the Labour Party, Lee Cheuk-yan, were also arrested. "Well, the Hong Kong situation is getting tense here, but we have to go on, we have to go on," Lai told reporters after speaking with officers. The three left the police station after being charged and are to appear in court on May 5. They could face up to five years in prison along with fines. Senior police officer Wong Tung-kwong said all three were charged with illegal assembly in connection with the Aug. 31 march, which was timed to mark the fifth anniversary of a decision by China against fully democratic



Founder of Hong Kong's Apple Daily newspaper, Jimmy Lai, walks out from a police station after being bailed out in Hong Kong, Friday, Feb. 28, 2020.

Associated Press

elections in Hong Kong. Organizers called off the march after police banned it, but hundreds of thou-

sands of people defied the order and filled the streets in several areas of the Asian financial hub. Protesters

threw gasoline bombs at government headquarters and set fires in the streets, while police stormed a subway car and hit passengers with batons and pepper spray in some of the most violent scenes up to that point in the protest movement.

Hong Kong broadcaster TVB showed police on the platform of Prince Edward subway station swinging batons at passengers who backed into one end of a train car behind umbrellas. The video also showed pepper spray being shot through an open door at a group seated on the floor while one man holds up his hands. □



## Parents of 'terrified' Africans stranded in China want help

By **RODNEY MUHUMUZA**  
and **PATRICK ONEN**  
Associated Press

**KAMPALA, Uganda (AP)** — She wakes every day long before dawn to chat with her three stranded daughters on the other side of the world in China's locked-down city of Wuhan, anxious to see they have started a new day virus-free.

"If I don't get a reply it worries me, but if I get a reply from any of them I say, 'Thank you, Jesus,'" Margaret Ntale said.

Many countries evacuated citizens from Wuhan after the virus outbreak started there, but thousands of students from African countries have been left behind. Despite pleas with governments for evacuation, several African countries have said it's safer to stay in place.

More than 4,000 African students have been estimated to be in Wuhan, a result of China's push to expand its influence on the youthful African continent. Bringing them home, governments say, is risky in sub-Saharan Africa, which on Friday confirmed its first case of the virus, in Nigeria's city of Lagos. Just two cases have been confirmed in North Africa, in Egypt and Algeria. Health systems can be weak, and quarantining dozens or hundreds of returning people is a major challenge.

That leaves African students stuck on ever-emptier campuses in Wuhan, worrying about running out



In this image taken from video, Margaret Ntale, whose three student daughters are stranded in Wuhan, and Cecilia Oyet, in foreground holding cellphone, whose daughter is a medical student at Wuhan University of Science and Technology, speak by video-call to their children and other Ugandan students who are stranded in Wuhan, from Ntale's house in Kampala, Uganda on Thursday, Feb. 27, 2020.

of food or the money to buy it. Some governments have begun sending thousands of dollars to help them get by.

"I have a few friends who are not able to get things like detergent, sanitary towels, and then also not having food, like such things like that," said one of Ntale's daughters' roommates, Joanna Aloyo, via a messaging app.

On Thursday, Ntale joined other parents in Uganda's capital, Kampala, to talk to local reporters about their fears. And she started to cry.

"You can never know what is going to happen tomorrow. This is what scares me," Ntale said. "The students are traumatized and

equally terrified. It makes all of us break down."

The uncertainty about their children is "psychological torture," another parent said. At least 70 Ugandan students are stranded in Wuhan.

Uganda's health minister, Jane Aceng, could not be reached immediately. But two weeks ago she said the ministry was looking at the cost to "isolate, monitor and manage in the event of an outbreak among the group if repatriated."

Meanwhile she has said the government would send \$60,000 in emergency funds to be distributed among students in Wuhan. But the parents said their children had not received the money.

"It is a bit upsetting that it appears no serious action has taken place," said one parent, Cecilia Oyet. "I think that kind of inaction or slow action sends a message to those students out there, and even to the youth within the country. It sends a message either that we as fellow Ugandans, we don't care or that they as the youth, they don't matter, and we feel it is not okay." The parents communicate with their children by phone and the occasional video chat. They are increasingly alarmed as the death toll from the virus has grown, though some speak of trying to remain positive. Oyet, whose daughter is a medical student at Wuhan University of Science

and Technology, recalled that about two weeks ago a student sent a message saying that "people are dying here in large numbers and the bodies are being cremated. Can you imagine us dying here and you don't even see our bodies? Please do something before we become part of the statistics."

Other countries have announced plans to send students money. Botswana's government has said each of its students in Wuhan will receive an additional allowance of about \$144 a month and a local company will be engaged to deliver food, water, face masks and even provide "psychosocial support services."

But that's not enough, some students and parents say. After some called Ghana's government "callous" for not evacuating its students, President Nana Akufo-Ado last week said it had not been ruled out but it would be done in a way to avoid "fear and panic among the public."

In Ethiopia, where some worried families gathered in the capital, Addis Ababa, seeking evacuations, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed this week said Chinese President Xi Jinping assured him in a phone call that China would provide "special care and support" to stranded students.

Chinese authorities have issued statements saying students are receiving food and other necessities. □

## South African sentenced for racist comment that went viral

By **MOGOMOTSI MAGOME**  
Associated Press

**JOHANNESBURG (AP)** — South Africa has imposed a \$3,300 fine or 2-year prison term on a man convicted for racist comments in a video that went viral last year. Adam Catzavelos was charged after using a derogatory word used to describe black South Africans during the country's racist system of apartheid that ended in 1994.

In the video, he can be heard rejoicing that there

were no black people at a beach in Greece where he was enjoying a vacation.

He later pleaded guilty and asked for leniency with the Randburg Magistrates Court. Magistrate Hleziphi Mkhasibe suspended the sentence for five years, meaning it would be immediately implemented if Catzavelos commits another racist act.

The magistrate noted that Catzavelos and his wife had lost their jobs amid the outrage over the video.



In this May 28, 2019 photo, Adam Catzavelos arrives outside the Randburg, Johannesburg Magistrates Court.

Associated Press

This is the second prominent case in which South African courts have sentenced people for racist behavior. Former real estate agent Vicki Momberg was convicted and sentenced to two years in prison in 2018 after using a slur dozens of times against a black police officer who came to her aid.

Catzavelos told the court he regretted his actions. He said using the slur impaired the dignity of black South Africans. □



## Mexico confirms first 2 cases of coronavirus

**MEXICO CITY (AP)** —

Mexico's assistant health secretary announced Friday that the country now has two confirmed cases of the new coronavirus.

Hugo Lopez-Gatell said one of the patients is in Mexico City and the other in the northern state of Sinaloa. While a second test is still pending on that case, he said, "We are treating this as confirmed." Neither is seriously ill; one is in isolation at a hospital, the other is isolated at a hotel.

At least five family contacts of the first patient have been placed in isolation. He said the men had traveled to the northern Italian region where there has been an outbreak and had returned to Mexico between last Friday and Saturday.

President Andrés Manuel López Obrador appeared to downplay the seriousness of the COVID-19 virus, saying "it isn't even equivalent to flu." Seasonal flu kills more people because it has infected far more people, but the new virus appears to have a far higher mortality rate.

In the central China city of Wuhan, where the new coronavirus first exploded, 2% to 4% of patients have died, according to the World Health Organization. But in the rest of China, the death rate has been 0.7%. On average, the death rate from seasonal flu is about 0.1%.

"I repeat, according to the available information, it is not something terrible, fatal," López Obrador said. "There shouldn't be any yellow journalism, or exaggerations, to cause a mass psychosis of fear, of terror."

Brazil on Wednesday confirmed Latin America's first confirmed case of the new coronavirus in a man who traveled to Italy this month.

López Obrador, who holds wide-ranging news conferences almost



**Family wear masks over their mouth as a precaution against the spread of the new coronavirus outside a national hospital that specializes in respiratory diseases, the INER, in Mexico City, Friday, Feb. 28, 2020.**

**Associated Press**

every weekday, announced that his officials will now hold news conferences on coronavirus every night.

Lopez-Gatell also said that Mexico's traditional culture of hearty handshakes, friendly hugs and kisses as a form of greeting must change.

Lopez-Gatell drew a chuckle from the president when he suggested replacing those greeting with a self-hug — a gesture that López Obrador frequently uses in front of large crowds when he can't greet people individually.

The Roman Catholic Bishops Conference in Mexico said in a statement Friday that Mass-goers should substitute verbal for physical greetings when exchanging the ritual expressions of peace, and that communion wafers should be placed in parishioners' hands rather than their mouths, both as preventive measures.

Mexico's Health Department said the case in Mexico City involved a 35-year-old Italian man who lives in the Mexican

capital, while the Sinaloa case involves a 41-year-old resident of Hidalgo state.

The confirmed cases shifted attention from the long-suffering passengers of the MSC Meraviglia, which had been turned away from two ports before docking in Mexico's Caribbean coast resort of Cozumel on Thursday. The passengers were finally allowed off the ship on Friday after health checks found influenza, but no cases of the new coronavirus, in a crew member and passenger. Some of the roughly 4,580 passengers went ashore in Cozumel on Friday, according to MSC Cruises, which said it will offer passengers 100 percent refunds of cruise fares "due to the disruptive nature of their vacation."

"Spirits, overall, were high — especially in light of the difficult situation that had developed over the previous day," according to the company.

The ship was scheduled to depart Cozumel late Friday and return to its home port of Miami, Florida on Sunday. □



**In this April 14, 2008 file photo, the Fred Olson Cruise Liner Braemar is docked at the port in Havana, Cuba.**

**Associated Press**

## Cruise ship sails to St. Maarten after OVID-19 scare

**By MICHAEL WEISSENSTEIN**  
**Associated Press**

**HAVANA (AP)** — A British cruise ship turned away by the Dominican Republic after passengers suffered flu-like symptoms was awaiting approval to dock on the island of St. Maarten on Friday, officials said. It was one of at least three ships barred from a Caribbean port this week.

Dominican officials said they blocked the Braemar from the Romana cruise port — where the cruise had been scheduled to end — after its captain reported four Filipinos, two British citizens and two U.S. citizens under medical observation for symptoms such as fever, coughing, or breathing difficulty.

Fred. Olsen Cruise Lines said in an emailed statement that it had reported "a small number of influenza-like cases on board" that did not appear linked to the new coronavirus and the patients had recovered.

"It is our opinion that this is an overreaction by the Dominican Republic," Fred. Olsen said in a written statement.

Officials said the ship was carrying 1,128 mostly British passengers and 384 crew members.

The ship sailed to the Dutch island of St. Maarten and was awaiting approval to dock there Friday morning, port officials in St. Maarten said. The cruise line's website shows the ship had been due to pick up another load of passengers and set off on a new cruise Thursday night. The cruise line said it had sent a team to the Dominican Republic to help those passengers get home.

The Braemar's troubles shifted attention from the long-suffering passengers of the MSC Meraviglia, which had been turned away from two ports before docking in Mexico's Caribbean coast resort of Cozumel on Thursday. They weren't allowed off for a day while health checks were carried out. Tests found influenza, but not the COVID-19 virus, in a crew member and passenger, opening the way for others aboard the ship to finally disembark.

Some of the roughly 4,500 passengers went ashore in Cozumel on Friday, according to MSC cruises.

"Spirits, overall, were high — especially in light of the difficult situation that had developed over the previous day," according to the company, which said it will offer passengers 100 percent refunds of cruise fares "due to the disruptive nature of their vacation."

The ship was scheduled to depart Cozumel late Friday and return to its home port of Miami on Sunday.

A third vessel, the M/V Costa Favolosa, was turned away from port in the British Virgin Islands on Wednesday. The territory's government said several passengers had flown from Italy and boarded the ship in Guadeloupe and that there were cases of influenza reported aboard.

"In light of the public and health safety actions being taken in Italy in reaction to COVID-19, including the quarantine of select cities and cancellation of its own carnival activities, a decision was made to err on the side of caution," it said. The ship, which has a capacity of 3,800 passengers, later went to St. Maarten. □



## LOCAL



## Photographer Kees Tabak opens exposition: 50 portraits filled with multicultural love

ORANJESTAD — Dutch portrait photographer Kees Tabak is known for his iconic black & white portraits of famous artists. Last Thursday he opened the exhibition 'Love Multicultural Aruba' where he exposes 50 portraits of mixed couples. Lovers, parent and child, friends, family ..... All captured within a beautiful black & white portrait where Tabak catches the essence of their emotional bond. The exhibition is now open to the public at our national cultural center Cas di Cultura.

The room was filled with people of all races and cultures during the official opening of 'Love Multicultural Aruba'. Director of Cas di Cultura Vicky Arens-Tjoe A Tjoe and Siegfried Dumfries, director of the Department of Culture welcomed the guests and explained the motivation behind their collaboration with Tabak. Besides the fact that they praise him being a very talented photographer the message of this exposition is to be open to multi-culture which is an important part of Aruba, they said. Tabak



himself had done this before in his home-country The Netherlands where he created a series of portraits of mixed couples in Amsterdam. When he visited Aruba he noticed that the island has people of all races, cultures and backgrounds living in harmony. The focus for his work of art should be the love for each other, he decided.

His portraits are integer, serious and with a feeling for empathy as he describes in the beautiful booklet that was available for visitors of the opening exposition.

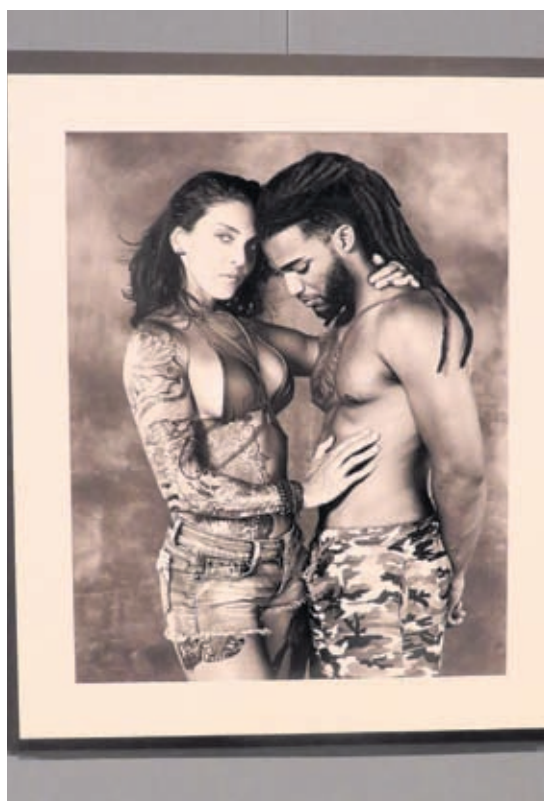
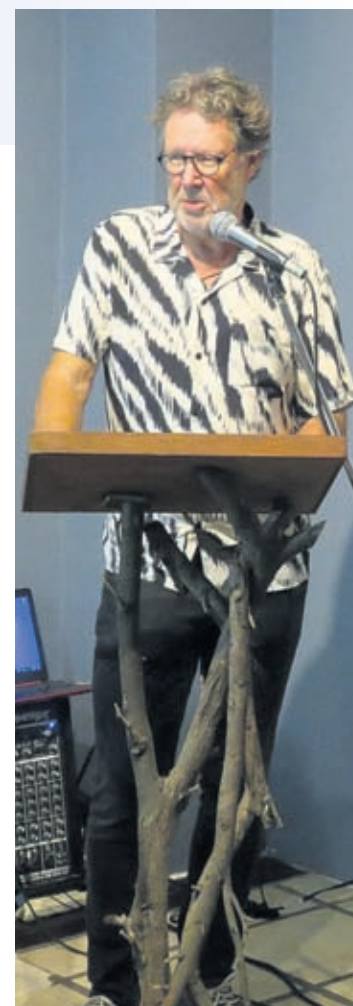
The pictures show people from Aruba, The Netherlands, Curacao, Peru, Colombia, USA, South Africa, Surinam, Belgium, Morocco, Guyana, Germany, Do-

minican Republic, Venezuela, China, Haiti, Indonesia, France, Guatemala and Brazil.

Tabak started his photography career after finishing the art academy Gerrit Rietveld. He captured many celebrities like Prince, Madonna, Bryan Ferry, Elton John and more in his Amsterdam studio. Tabak

distinguished himself with a typical style and purity expressed in his art. The books 'No More Hero's' and 'Dutch Music' show highlights of his work.

For more information about the exposition 'Love Multicultural Aruba' please check the Facebook page 'cas di cultura - aruba's cultural platform since 1958' or call +297 582 1010. □





## Urban Chic in Tropical Beach Décor: Coral Shell Condominiums is made with Family Love



**ORANJESTAD** —The Caribbean is a paradisiacal place where anyone would like to own their own condo to enjoy family, retirement, sun, sand and sea, and leisure. Making the perfect choice for that perfect place in the jungle of offerings can be a hassle. Well, in case you are looking for the best in all senses, Coral Shell is a must-see. We will tell you why.

The best comes from the heart and in the case of Coral Shell Condominiums it is the owners who built this place as their own home. Actually it is their own home as they will live in one of the exclusive condominiums themselves. Marisabel and Albert are a warm, genuine, hard-working and driven-by-perfectionism and passion kind of couple. They do not only care for the luxury private residence they are building but take the environment into consideration in their concept as they are the park-keepers of the adjacent Boy Ecury Park. Aruba Today was shown around by the owner who while explaining all the beauty that surrounds us mentions he is a medical specialist in origin. That explains his accuracy with every tiny detail and his decision for only the best quality products. There are 16 apartments in the range from one, two, three, four and five bedrooms.

### The building

The building is unique with 2 centimeter thick marble floors, exterior façade in Dominican Coral Stone, walls with concrete blocks – not dry wall, double glass windows with UV protection and sound control, a double system of air conditioning, sound control and waterproof mat under marble floor to isolate noise, fire and gas detectors in all apartments, laundry rooms and each kitchen has an InSinkErator.

The impeccable architecture is inspiring; appearing to have an art-museum vibe. Correct, says Albert, the architect is inspired by Spanish artist Gaudi among others. The walls seem to flow in a natural way and fit perfectly into the sun-lit place and surrounding colors of nature. The kitchens are all 100% Italian brand and even installed by Italians who call this place “Palazzo”. “They said to have installed kitchens all over the world but never saw a condominium residence where all is matched so perfectly,” the owners say. “I can say with pride that this is the most exclusive condominium in the Caribbean.”

### The location

You have a priceless view offering 180 degrees that gives you a turquoise ocean, big blue sky, lush green gardens and the Linear Park urban walkway. Open air, sea, sand, city and more sea ... all in one. Stroll in Boy Ecury Park, play with the children in Linear Park, take a dive in the ocean just in front of you and walk to one of the many restaurants that are close-by. Coral Shell has all the options in one. Most of the time you have to make a choice between a seaside location, urban environment or inland greens but here you have it all. Did we mention you have your private parking under the roof? Also there is round-the clock security guard and video surveillance. How about the Infinity pool with hydro jets and the outdoor terrace with bar, sun deck, fitness center and multipurpose court? Now we did. You must see it for yourself to experience the magic of Coral Shell, the owners will be honored to guide you around!



### Please contact to visit:

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## Emerald ambassadors: 50 years visiting Aruba

**EAGLE BEACH** — Recently, Kimberley Richardson of the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure to honor Aruba's loyal and friendly visitors as Emerald Ambassadors of Aruba. The symbolic Emerald Ambassador certificate is presented to guests who visit Aruba 35 years and more consecutively.

The honorees were couple **Henri & Doris Eckardt** from Long Island, New York. The Emerald Ambassador is the highest certificate that we present, and is given to visitors who have been visiting Aruba 35 years or more consecutively. Couple Henri & Doris have been visiting Aruba for 50 years consecutively! The ceremony was one of importance because honoring visitors who have been coming to Aruba for over 35 years is incredibly rare and it was a very memorable moment for all of us.

This lovely couple stated that they love the island very much, especially for its year-round sunny weather, nice sandy beaches and picturesque sunsets, delicious variety of foods, its cleanliness, and Aruba's warm and friendly people who became like family to them. This couple not only fell in-love with the island, but also brought family, grandchildren, friends, and neighbors to Aruba.

Richardson together with the representatives of the Caribbean Palm village Resort presented the certificate to the honorees, handed over some presents and also thanked them for choosing Aruba as their favorite vacation destination and as their home-away-from-home. □





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**Coming Soon:** The Brownstone Ribs & Seafood and Shalom Hair & Nail Bar

## Eva Schloss to speak in Aruba: Historic evening with Anne Frank's Step Sister

**PALM BEACH — On Sunday, March 1, Mrs. Eva Schloss will share her experiences as the childhood friend and step sister of Anne Frank, including accounts of the publishing of Anne's famed diary.**

In 1938, Germany invaded Austria, causing many Jewish families to flee Austria to avoid persecution. Among the emigrants was 8-year old Eva Geiringer, who with her mother, brother, and father moved first to Belgium and then to Holland, where one of her neighbors

was a German Jewish girl of the same age. The two girls became friends and playmates (though, as Eva would say many years later, the girl was "much more grown-up and mature than me"). They passed the time by skipping, playing hopscotch and marbles, and drinking lemonade that the girl's mother prepared. Ultimately, both girls and their families were deported to the Auschwitz concentration camp. Later they would become step sisters. Eva survived her concentration camp experience and made her way to England, where she married Zvi Schloss and raised three daughters. She worked as a studio photographer and ran an antique shop. Her step-sister did not survive Auschwitz, but kept a diary that did. Her name was Anne Frank.

Since 1985, Eva Schloss



has devoted herself to holocaust education and global peace. She has recounted her wartime experiences in more than one thousand speaking engagements. She has written two books and has had a play written about her life. In 1999 Eva signed the Anne Frank Peace Declaration along with United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan and the niece of Raul Wallenberg, a legendary figure who rescued thousands of Jews in Buda-

pest.

Eva joins many courageous individuals who work tirelessly to end the violence and bigotry that continue to plague our world. Eva's story is sensational and difficult to imagine, yet her insightful message reminds us that life is precious and fragile, that the creative spirit is stronger than fear, that the power of good is immeasurable, and that love makes a difference.

The presentation will take place at the Hilton Aruba Caribbean Resort and Casino in the Grand Morris Lapidus Ballroom at 7:00pm and will be suitable for people of all ages including teenagers. Families of all faiths are invited to attend. This is a special opportunity to hear a first-hand account from someone whose life intersected with one of the most compelling figures in our history. Chabad of Aruba is honored to coordinate the event, with the generous support of our sponsors of this special evening; Hilton Aruba Caribbean Resort & Casino, Elite Productions, Gianni's Group, Compra, Ben Real Estate, Aruba Racquet Club, Do it Center, 4D Photo Bar, Aruba Tourist Channel, Brickel Bay Beach Club & Spa, Superfoods. Tickets are available at: [www.AnneFrankAruba.com](http://www.AnneFrankAruba.com). □





# SPORTS



In this Dec. 28, 2019, file photo, Ohio State cornerback Shaun Wade, right, tackles Clemson quarterback Trevor Lawrence during the first half of the Fiesta Bowl NCAA college football playoff semifinal in Glendale, Ariz.

Associated Press

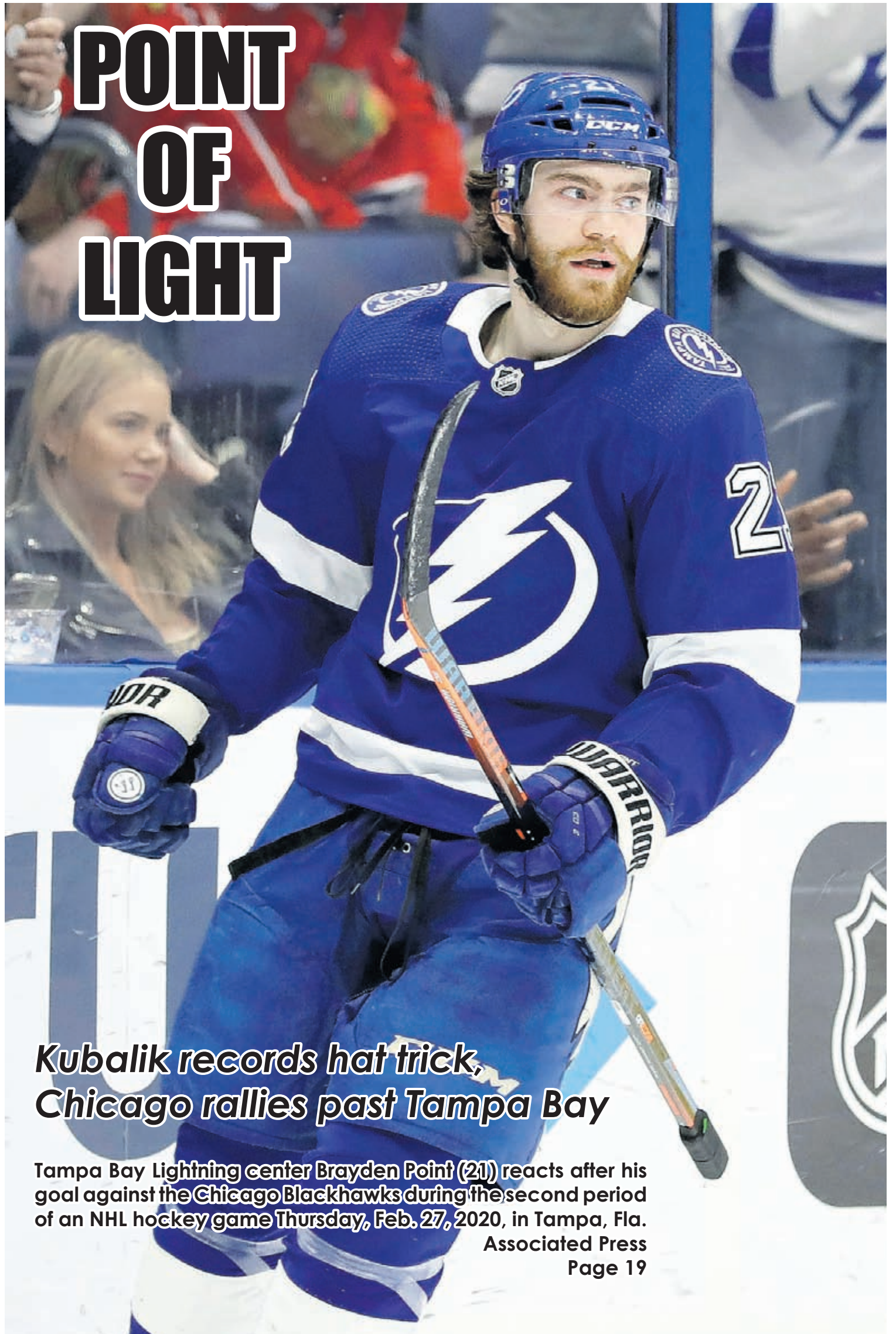
## NCAA committee proposes 2-minute limit on replay reviews

By RALPH D. RUSSO  
College Football Writer

Players ejected from games for targeting will be allowed to remain in the bench area and replay reviews will be limited to two minutes if proposals by the NCAA football rules committee are passed. In an effort to crack down on pre-game dust-ups between teams, the committee also recommended officials be on the field 90 minutes before a game begins — instead of the current 60 minutes. NCAA coordinator of officials Steve Shaw said there was a "robust" discussion about what he called the growing trend of defensive players flopping or seemingly faking injuries as a way to slow down offenses trying to run plays quickly. For now, rulemakers will appeal to coaches to clean up an issue that is difficult to legislate away.

Continued on Page 23

## POINT OF LIGHT



## Kubalik records hat trick, Chicago rallies past Tampa Bay

Tampa Bay Lightning center Brayden Point (21) reacts after his goal against the Chicago Blackhawks during the second period of an NHL hockey game Thursday, Feb. 27, 2020, in Tampa, Fla.

Associated Press  
Page 19



# Steele takes 1-shot lead at midpoint of The Honda Classic

By TIM REYNOLDS

AP Sports Writer

**PALM BEACH GARDENS, Fla. (AP)** —

Brendan Steele made a couple of big mistakes down the stretch, and still was more than good enough to grab the outright lead at the midpoint of The Honda Classic. Steele shot a 3-under 67 on Friday, getting to 5 under for the week and putting himself a shot clear of J.T. Poston (69), Lee Westwood (69) and Luke Donald (66) after the second round at PGA National.

This is Steele's ninth time playing the Honda and the first time he's ended any round at PGA National with the lead. He missed the cut last year by 10 shots, but most of what he's doing so far this year has worked — that is, until he made bogey on two of his last three holes Friday.

"My first few years here I couldn't quite figure it out," Steele said. "I thought maybe it wasn't a good course for me. ... I don't feel like it's a course you can just jump out your first time and have it nailed. You have to see it in all the different winds and conditions that you have."

The cut was 3 over, and most of the biggest names in the field aren't sticking around for the weekend. Among them: Brooks Koepka, Rickie Fowler, Justin Rose and defending champion Keith Mitchell. Koepka shot a 4-over 74 for the second consecutive day and missed the cut



**Brendan Steele hits from a bunker on the 16th hole during the second round of the Honda Classic golf tournament, Friday, Feb. 28, 2020, in Palm Beach Gardens, Fla.**

Associated Press

by five shots. Fowler (68) missed an eagle putt at the par-5 18th that would have gotten him to the weekend and fell a shot shy, Rose (74) was 6 over and missed by three shots, while Mitchell (72) missed by five shots. "You can rack up some big numbers pretty quick," Koepka said.

Steele had a chance to take an even bigger lead into the weekend. The famed Bear Trap, PGA National's stretch of holes 15-17, has never been overly kind to Steele — who was 26 over on those three holes in 31 rounds on that triumvirate before Friday. But his tee ball on the par-3 15th went around the back of the hole before lipping out and stopping inches

shy of an ace, and he followed that up with another birdie on the par-3 17th. Thing was, the 16th and 18th got him.

A bogey on the par-4 16th was the first miscue, and then his approach sailed over the green at the finishing hole to lead to another dropped shot. Still, the three-time winner on tour — the last of those coming when he went back-to-back at the Safeway Open in 2018 — left more than satisfied.

"I think a course like this always suits me a little bit better," Steele said. "I feel like I can make birdies on this course maybe more than other guys can, and I don't necessarily feel that way a lot of weeks. ... That gives

me some confidence, and I definitely feel like harder is usually better for me."

Steele missed a chance for a victory in January in Hawaii, falling to Cameron Smith in a playoff after taking a three-stroke lead into the final round.

U.S. Open champion Gary Woodland put himself squarely in the mix with a 67 and thinks there's a simple reason why tough courses like PGA National appeal to him.

"I think it's definitely mental," Woodland said. "I probably focus a little bit more. You've got to hit shots out here. You've got to work the golf ball both ways. You've got to ride the wind. I love playing in the wind. But this golf course is

as demanding as we see, so you've got to be ready from the get-go."

Woodland was tied for fifth at 3 under with Sepp Straka (67), Cameron Davis (67) and Nick Watney (66).

Donald got into the mix as well, looking for his first win in the U.S. since 2012 and the first anywhere since 2013.

Donald had the best round of the day at 66, tied with a pair of South Korean players — Byeong Hun An and Sungjae Im.

"It's probably been a little bit of a lean stretch," Donald said. "But yeah, I feel like I've been making progress in the last four months with my swing and feeling more comfortable on the golf course."

Zach Johnson briefly got to 5 under, then posted consecutive bogeys — and hit real trouble on the par-4 11th.

His second shot went into the water, ending up in a muddy spot just at the edge of some long grass. Johnson elected to play his third from there, trying to knock the ball skyward toward the green — but only managing to bury it further into the mud. Johnson had to retreat about 125 yards back up the fairway, played another approach and two-putted from 45 feet for a triple-bogey 7.

Just like that, he went from tied for sixth and one shot back to tied for 23rd and four shots off the lead. He finished with a 75, going to 2 over for the week. □

# LPGA's Lindberg misses cut in men's NZ Open



**Sweden's Pernilla Lindberg prepares to play during the opening round of the New Zealand Golf Open in Queenstown, New Zealand, Thursday, Feb. 27, 2020.**

Associated Press

**QUEENSTOWN, New Zealand (AP)** — LPGA major winner Pernilla Lindberg of Sweden has missed the cut at the New Zealand Golf Open after becoming the first woman to play in the 101-year-old men's professional tournament.

Lindberg shot 1-over 73 Friday to follow her first round 9-over par 80, finishing in a tie for 151st in the 156-strong field. While she missed the cut, she surpassed her goal for the tournament — to "beat just one man" — by

beating four. The 11-year LPGA Tour veteran, who won the ANA Inspiration in 2018, played the tournament on a sponsor's invitation, teaming in the pro-am format with New Zealand rugby star Beauden Barrett. She was married in Queenstown a year ago and was holidaying with her husband in the South Island resort to celebrate their first anniversary when she was invited to compete.

"I was going to be here anyway and it is my fa-

vorite country," Lindberg said. "I couldn't say no. Any chance to tee it up at these beautiful courses I could not say no."

The first two rounds of the tournament are played over two courses, The Hills and the Millbrook Resort with the last two rounds at Millbrook.

Korean teenager Joo-hyung Kim retained a one shot tournament lead at 11-under par, following his first round 64 with a 5-under 67 on Friday. □



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## NHL-leading Bruins beat Stars to end 2-game skid

By The Associated Press

**BOSTON (AP)** — Nick Ritchie had a goal and an assist for his first points since Boston acquired him at the trade deadline to help the NHL-leading Bruins beat the Dallas Stars 4-3 on Thursday night. Brad Marchand broke a second-period tie and Ritchie scored 1:27 later to make it 3-1. Then, after Denis Gurianov cut the deficit to one early in the third, Ritchie fed David Pastrnak in the slot to again make it a two-goal game.

Jaroslav Halak stopped 31 shots, and Charlie Coyle scored on a double-tipped swat out of the air for Boston. The Bruins snapped a two-game losing streak. John Klingberg and Miro Heiskanen also scored for Dallas.

### BLACKHAWKS 5, LIGHTNING 2

**TAMPA, Fla. (AP)** — Dominik Kubalik scored three goals in the third period to help Chicago beat Tampa Bay. later Koekkoek scored his first goal of the season and Brandon Saad added another score in Chicago's first regulation victory over the Lightning since Dec. 13, 2009.

Chicago's Corey Crawford finished with 37 saves. Nikita Kucherov and Brayden Point each had a goal and an assist for Tampa Bay.

### BLUES 3, ISLANDERS 2, OT

**ST. LOUIS (AP)** — Colton Parayko scored on an unassisted wraparound at 3:23 of overtime to give St. Louis its sixth consecutive victory. Vince Dunn tied it for St. Louis with 1:44 left in the third period. Brayden Shenn



Boston Bruins' Brad Marchand (63) scores on Dallas Stars' Ben Bishop (30) during the second period of an NHL hockey game in Boston, Thursday, Feb. 27, 2020.

Associated Press

also scored for the defending Stanley Cup champions, and Jordan Binnington had 14 saves.

Jean-Gabriel Pageau and Jordan Eberle scored for New York. Thomas Greiss stopped 30 shots.

**MAPLE LEAFS 5, PANTHERS 3**  
**SUNRISE, Fla. (AP)** — William Nylander scored the go-ahead goal midway through the third period to lift Toronto past Florida.

Auston Matthews, Kasper Kapanen, Zach Hyman and Justin Holl also scored for Toronto. Frederik Andersen stopped 24 shots in his sixth straight start.

Mike Hoffman, Noel Acciari and Mark Pysyk scored for Florida.

### SENATORS 5, CANUCKS 2

**OTTAWA, Ontario (AP)** —

Bobby Ryan had a hat trick in his first game in more than three months, leading Ottawa past Vancouver. Ryan entered the joint NHL/NHLPA assistance program Nov. 20 after admitting to having a problem with alcohol. He last played on Nov. 16 in Buffalo, but had been skating on his own since late December.

Connor Brown and Rudolfs Balcers also scored for Ottawa and Marcus Hogberg made 32 saves.

J.T. Miller and Tyler Toffoli scored for the Canucks.

### RANGERS 5, CANADIENS 2

**MONTREAL (AP)** — Ryan Strome scored twice and added an assist and New York rallied to beat Montreal for its fifth straight victory. Phillip Di Giuseppe, Adam

Fox and Mika Zibanejad also scored for the Rangers and Alexandar Georgiev made 32 saves. New York pulled into a tie with Carolina, two points behind Columbus for the final Eastern Conference playoff berth. The Rangers have won nine consecutive road games and are 9-1-0 in their last 10 overall.

Max Domi and Tomas Tatar scored for the Canadiens.

### PREDATORS 4, FLAMES 3, OT

**NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)** — Mikael Granlund tied it just before the end of regulation and scored 1:20 into overtime to lift Nashville past Calgary in a showdown of the Western Conference's two wild-card teams.

Roman Josi and Colton

Sissons also had a goal apiece, and Ryan Ellis added three assists. Nashville won its third straight and improved to 6-1-1 over its last eight.

Mikael Backlund had a goal and two assists for Calgary, and Andrew Mangiapane and Rasmus Andersson each scored.

### JETS 3, CAPITALS 0

**WINNIPEG, Manitoba (AP)** — Connor Hellebuyck stopped 34 shots for his fifth shutout of the season, leading Winnipeg over Washington.

Dmitry Kulikov, Kyle Connor and Mark Scheifele scored for Winnipeg.

### WILD 7, RED WINGS 1

**DETROIT (AP)** — Defenseman Matt Dumba had two goals and an assist in Minnesota's victory over Detroit.

Kevin Fiala had a goal and two assists, Ryan Hartman and Ryan Donato had a goal and an assist each and Jordan Greenway and Eric Staal also scored for Minnesota. Alex Stalock made 25 saves.

Anthony Mantha scored for NHL-worst Detroit.

### SHARKS 3, DEVILS 2, OT

**SAN JOSE, Calif. (AP)** — Logan Couture scored 38 seconds into overtime, lifting the Sharks to a comeback win that snapped a five-game skid.

Rookie Mario Ferraro and Marcus Sorensen each scored in regulation for San Jose. Martin Jones made 22 saves.

Travis Zajac and Nikita Gusev each had a goal for the Devils, who were seeking their season-high fourth straight win. □



# Tobias Harris leads shorthanded 76ers past Knicks

**By The Associated Press**  
**PHILADELPHIA (AP)** — Tobias Harris scored 34 points to lead the short-handed Philadelphia 76ers to a 115-106 victory over the New York Knicks on Thursday night. The 76ers played without injured All-Stars Joel Embiid (sprained left shoulder) and Ben Simmons (back). Shake Milton added 19 points and Al Horford had 15 to help the 76ers improve their NBA-best home

record to 28-2. Julius Randle had 30 points and 10 rebounds for the Knicks. They lost their sixth straight game while clinching a sixth straight losing season. **THUNDER 112, KINGS 108**  
**OKLAHOMA CITY (AP)** — Danilo Gallinari scored 24 points and Oklahoma overcame a 19-point deficit to beat Sacramento. Shai Gilgeous-Alexander scored 20 points and Chris Paul added 17 for the Thun-

der. They have won five straight and 14 of 17. Harrison Barnes scored 21 points for the Kings.

## **PACERS 106, TRAIL BLAZERS 100**

**INDIANAPOLIS (AP)** — Domantas Sabonis had 20 points and 11 rebounds in Indiana's victory over Portland. Malcolm Brogdon had 17 points, eight assists and six rebounds, and T.J. Warren and Victor Oladipo scored 15 points each. The Pacers have four of their last five. CJ McCollum had 28 points and eight assists for the Trail Blazers. They have lost five of six.

## **LAKERS 116, WARRIORS 86**

**SAN FRANCISCO (AP)** — Anthony Davis had 23 points and six rebounds in three quarters and the Lakers won their seventh straight game and NBA-record 18th in a row on the road against the Western Conference, beating injury-plagued Golden State without LeBron James.



Philadelphia 76ers' Tobias Harris, right, goes up for a shot against New York Knicks' Julius Randle during the second half of an NBA basketball game, Thursday, Feb. 27, 2020, in Philadelphia. Philadelphia won 115-106.

**Associated Press**

Rajon Rondo started in place of James and contributed 12 points and six assists as Los Angeles turned it into a rout with a 40-17 third quarter. James sat out because of recurring soreness in his troublesome left groin. Davis shot 6 for 13, made 10 of 12 free throws and also had a pair of blocked shots and steals for the Lak-

ers, whose 12 first-half turnovers allowed the Warriors to keep it close. Kyle Kuzma added 18 points off the bench.

Rookie Eric Paschall scored 23 points off the bench for his 11th 20-point game and Jordan Poole had 16 in the Warriors' eighth straight loss both overall and at home in new Chase Center. □

# Ruggs runs fast but can't top Ross's record he had targeted

**ARNIE STAPLETON**

**AP Pro Football Writer**

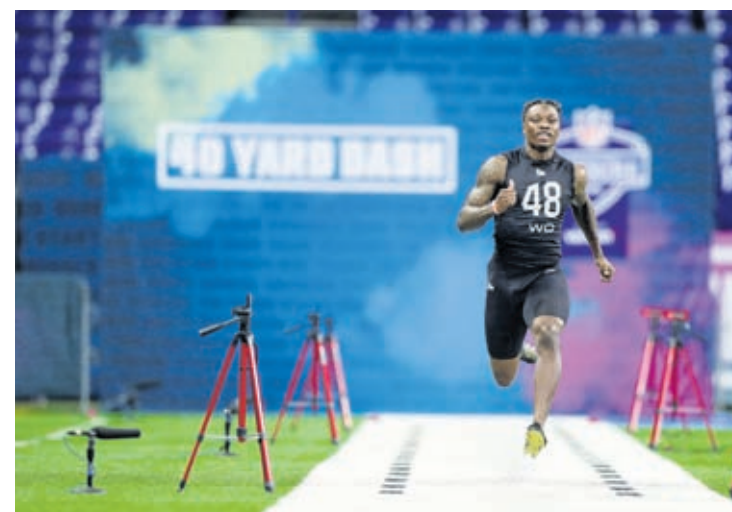
**INDIANAPOLIS (AP)** — The stars came out at night inside Lucas Oil Stadium, especially Henry Ruggs III who came up short in his quest to set a record but still clocked the fastest 40-yard dash at the NFL scouting combine.

A 4.27-second time in the 40 is nothing to scoff at, but Ruggs had hoped to run faster. The 5-foot-11, 188-pound speedster from Alabama fell short of the record 4.22-second time that Bengals wide receiver set during a blazing 2017 run.

Ruggs said he had previously run the 40 in 4.25 seconds and felt he could top that in Indianapolis.

He was initially clocked at 4.28 on his first of two runs but the official time was recorded at 4.27 seconds. His second time was 4.31.

Ruggs did back up his other boast this week, when he said he was the fastest guy at the NFL scouting com-



Alabama wide receiver Henry Ruggs III runs the 40-yard dash at the NFL football scouting combine in Indianapolis, Thursday, Feb. 27, 2020.

**Associated Press**

bine. Ruggs, who is often compared to Tyreek Hill, also had a 42-inch vertical jump, which was tied for second-best among the receivers who later ran routes and caught passes along with the tight ends from the quarterback prospects -- excluding projected top overall pick Joe Burrow and a rehabbing Tua Tagovailoa. Utah State's Jordan Love,

around whom buzz has been building this week, shined during the second QB session after Oklahoma's Jalen Hurts stood out in the first group. Oregon's Justin Herbert also impressed.

Other receivers who stood out from an unusually deep group were LSU's Justin Jefferson, Alabama's Jerry Jeudy and Oklahoma's CeeDee Lamb. □

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# Kershaw strikes out 4 in 1st spring training appearance

**By The Associated Press**

Clayton Kershaw struck out four without allowing a hit in his spring training debut Friday, the first step toward a possible opening-day start for the Los Angeles Dodgers.

Kershaw faced a Milwaukee Brewers lineup with five expected regulars, including Brock Holt and Keston Hiura at the top of the order. He struck out both on three pitches in the first. After two walks and a strikeout of his final batter, Kershaw left with a 1-0 lead after 1 2/3 innings.

"It was awesome. Maybe I didn't hit one spot, but physically I felt like the ball was coming out, felt like it was breaking the right way," Kershaw said. "Now just got to figure out how to throw strikes, but other than that, it was a good first step for sure."

Kershaw, a left-hander who turns 32 on March 19, went 16-5 with a 3.03 ERA last season. He pitched 178 1/3 innings, his highest total since 2015.

He missed the start of the season due to shoulder soreness that caused him to be shut down for most of spring training. His streak of eight straight opening day starts came to an end.

## **RAYS 8, NATIONALS 1**

World Series MVP Stephen Strasburg, who re-signed with Washington for a \$245 million, seven-year deal, gave up three runs, three hits and a walk over 1 1/3 innings in his first start. He struck out three. Yandy Díaz had an RBI single and Brian O'Grady hit a two-run double and a solo home run for Tampa Bay.

Ryan Yarbrough allowed an unearned run and two hits in two innings while striking out four.

## **PHILLIES 6, BRAVES (SS) 5**

Bryce Harper played his second game and hit a three-run double for his first hit. Jean Segura drove in Harper with a single and Phil Gosselin added a bases-loaded walk in a five-run fifth inning. Aaron Nola gave up two runs and six hits in two innings, striking out six. Atlanta's Dansby Swanson went 2 for 3 and is



Cincinnati Reds' Josh VanMeter (17) steals second base as he collides with Oakland Athletics second baseman Franklin Barreto, top, as the ball skips between both players during the second inning of a spring training baseball game Friday, Feb. 28, 2020, in Goodyear, Ariz.

Associated Press

batting .455.

## **ASTROS 6, MARLINS 4**

Zack Greinke allowed an unearned run in his first appearance, throwing 22 of 28 pitches for strikes in two innings. Marlins closer Brandon Kintzler gave up two runs, one hit and four walks without retiring a batter. Michael Brantley hit his first home run as Miami lost for the first time after a 6-0 start. Caleb Smith allowed a hit and two walks in two innings while striking out three.

## **TWINS 4, RED SOX 1**

J.D. Martinez hit a solo home run and tripled for his first hits for Boston. Eddie Rosario had a two-run double and prospect Alex Kirilloff had two hits, including a two-run homer. Homer Bailey allowed two hits in two scoreless innings.

## **METS 3, CARDINALS 2**

After getting cleared to play by a cardiologist, New York's Brandon Nimmo played center field and went 1 for 2 with a run. Nimmo was removed from the starting lineup before Wednesday's game

against Houston after a physical detected a recurrence of an irregular heartbeat. The 26-year-old was put through a series of tests and monitoring that included 24 hours with a wearable device. Right-hander Marcus Stroman worked two innings and allowed two hits and a run on Paul Goldschmidt's opposite-field homer to right. Adam Wainwright gave up one run, four hits and a walk in three innings.

## **YANKEES 5, BRAVES (SS) 3**

Deivi Garcia, New York's top pitching prospect, struck out three in two innings and allowed two runs, both on Johan Camargo's home run., Estevan Florial hit his first spring home run. Atlanta ace Mike Soroka pitched two scoreless innings in his first start, allowing three hits while striking out three. Josh Tomlin followed with three shutout innings.

## **ORIOLES 11, PIRATES 4**

Richie Martin went 3 for 4 with a triple and a double and four RBIs. Rookie Brandon Bailey, trying to earn a

rotation spot, pitched two perfect innings with two strikeouts. Trevor Williams gave up four runs, four hits and two walks in an inning as Pittsburgh dropped to 0-7. John Ryan Murphy hit a grand slam.

## **BLUE JAYS 5, TIGERS 4**

Teoscar Hernández had a two-run double and an RBI triple for Toronto, and Vladimir Guerrero Jr. added a run-scoring single. Left-handed pitching prospect Anthony Kaya allowed two hits in two scoreless innings while striking out three. Jonathan Schoop had a two-run double for Detroit. Kody Clemens, the son of former MLB pitcher Roger Clemens, had an RBI single. Iván Nova gave up three runs and four hits in two innings.

## **MARINERS 6, DIAMONDBACKS 2**

Shed Long Jr. had two run-scoring singles and Kyle Lewis hit his first spring home run, driving in two for Seattle. Yusei Kikuchi made his second start, pitching 2 1/3 innings and surrendering one run on a hit and two walks while striking out

three. Eduardo Escobar had a single and a sacrifice fly, driving in both runs for Arizona. Ketel Marte doubled and scored. Alex Young, in the hunt for a rotation spot, started and allowed three runs on four hits and a walk, pitching two innings and striking out three.

## **WHITE SOX 8, INDIANS 3**

Top 5 prospect Andrew Vaughn hit a solo home run and Nomar Mazara singled, scoring a run for Chicago.

Franmil Reyes hit a solo home run for Cleveland, his second this spring. Jake Bauers added two hits, scoring a run. Top left-handed pitching prospect Logan Allen started, issuing three walks in two scoreless innings with two strikeouts.

## **ANGELS 7, RANGERS 2**

Shohei Ohtani had a run-scoring single for his first spring hit for Los Angeles. Jo Adell, the Angels' top prospect, hit an RBI double, scoring a run. Andrew Heaney made his first start, allowing a hit and an unearned run while pitching two innings.

Isiah Kiner-Falefa had two hits, driving in a run for Texas. Lance Lynn made his first start, pitching 2 2/3 innings and allowing two runs on four hits and a walk, striking out three.

## **REDS 10, ATHLETICS 1**

Anthony DeSclafani pitched two perfect innings in his first start for Cincinnati, striking out two. Joey Votto walked in all three at-bats, scoring a run.

Mike Fiers struggled in his second start for Oakland, allowing five runs in two innings on four hits and three walks.

## **GIANTS (SS) 3, ROYALS 1**

Buster Posey had two hits, scoring a run for San Francisco's split squad. Darin Ruf drove in all three runs for the Giants, hitting a solo home run and a two-run single.

Mike Montgomery made his first start for Kansas City, pitching a scoreless inning and yielding one hit. Closer Ian Kennedy struggled in his first appearance, giving up two runs on three hits while pitching one inning. □



# Olympic champion Sun Yang banned for 8 years in doping case

By **GRAHAM DUNBAR**

AP Sports Writer

**GENEVA (AP)** — When the hammer came down on a container holding a vial of Sun Yang's blood, it ultimately shattered the career of China's greatest swimmer.

The three-time Olympic champion was banned for eight years on Friday, likely ending the 28-year-old Sun's racing days before he could defend his 200-meter freestyle title at the Tokyo Games.

The Court of Arbitration for Sport found the three-time Olympic champion guilty of refusing to cooperate with sample collectors during a visit to his home in September 2018 that turned confrontational.

The most vivid detail of the evidence — a blood sample rendered useless for testing by a hammer blow — left a clear impression on the judges. A rare hearing in open court in November was reminded of how a security guard instructed by Sun's mother broke the casing around the vial to ensure the blood could not be used for anti-doping tests. The swimmer lit the early-hours scene with his mobile phone. "The athlete failed to establish that he had a compelling justification to destroy his sample collection containers and forego the doping control when, in



In this Friday, July 26, 2019 file photo, China's Sun Yang waves following the men's 4x200m freestyle relay heats at the World Swimming Championships in Gwangju, South Korea.

Associated Press

his opinion, the collection protocol was not in compliance," the CAS panel of three judges agreed in a unanimous verdict.

China's most famous swimmer, and one of its biggest stars in any sport, had asked CAS for a public trial. A 10-hour hearing broadcast on the court's website showed Sun to be evasive at times under questioning that was hampered by severe translation issues between Chinese and English. The CAS panel's verdict was delayed until all parties got a verified translation.

The 6-foot, 7-inch (2-meter)

Sun, the first Chinese swimmer to win Olympic gold, has long been a polarizing figure in the pool.

Rivals branded him a drug cheat at the 2016 Rio de Janeiro Olympics, and two competitors refused to stand with him on medal podiums at the 2019 world championships.

Now banned until February 2028, the 28-year-old Sun cannot defend his 200-meter freestyle title in Tokyo.

"WADA ... is satisfied that justice in this case has been rendered," the body's director general Olivier Niggli said in a statement.

Sun can now appeal to Switzerland's supreme court, but on narrow procedural grounds. His lawyers have already had three federal appeals dismissed on legal process issues.

WADA requested a ban of between two and eight years for a second doping conviction. Sun served a three-month ban in 2014 imposed by Chinese authorities after testing positive for a stimulant that was banned at the time. The ban was not announced until after it ended.

That first case led to criticism of the world swimming

body for appearing to protect one of the sport's biggest stars in a key market.

FINA issued a statement noting it would implement the verdict of a court whose judgments are binding on any sports governing body. Sun never missed a major event while banned in 2014. He added 200 gold at the 2016 Rio de Janeiro Olympics to the historic 400 and 1,500 titles he took in London four years earlier.

He won a total of 11 golds in five straight world championships from 2011 to 2019, at each freestyle distance from 200 to 1,500. At three Asian Games from 2010 to 2018, he won nine gold medals.

The court ruled Friday that Sun can retain the two world titles he won in South Korea last July while the WADA appeal case against him was pending.

Days after the 2018 Asian Games, Sun was visited at his home by three officials sent by a Swedish firm to get blood and urine samples from him. International athletes must notify where and when they will be available for one hour each day, and Sun had suggested late on Sept. 4. When FINA prosecuted Sun following the incident, its tribunal panel in January 2019 merely warned Sun and cited doubts about the officials' credentials. □

# Djokovic saves 3 match points vs Monfils to make Dubai final

**DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP)** — Novak Djokovic saved three consecutive match points to beat Gael Monfils on Friday and set up a Dubai Championships final showdown against Stefanos Tsitsipas.

Monfils led 6-3 in the second-set tiebreaker but Djokovic saved all three match points as his forehand forced errors.

Djokovic converted his eighth set point when Monfils double-faulted. He cruised the rest of the way, winning 2-6, 7-6 (8), 6-1.

"It's like being on the edge of a cliff," Djokovic said about the match points. "You know there is no way



Serbia's Novak Djokovic celebrates after he beats Gael Monfils of France in a semi final match of the Dubai Duty Free Tennis Championship in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, Friday, Feb. 28, 2020.

Associated Press

back so you have to jump over and try to find a way to survive I guess and pray

for the best and believe that you can make it, that there is something that is

going to help you.

"That's one of the things that I feel at the moment. OK, one point away, one shot away. There is no going back. This is it. I accept the situation and try to make the most out of it."

Djokovic extended a couple of winning streaks: 20 on the tour dating to the Davis Cup Finals in November, and 17-0 against Monfils on the main tour.

Meanwhile, defeat brought an end to Monfils' career-best 12-match winning streak, including titles in Montpellier and Rotterdam this month.

No. 2-seeded Tsitsipas beat Daniel Evans of Britain 6-2,

6-3 without offering a break chance in their first meeting. "I just played a quality of tennis which I enjoyed," Tsitsipas said. "I am really impressed by the quality of my game, and I really hope to bring the same and possibly even better in the next round."

He's 2-2 against Djokovic. "It's anybody's game really," Djokovic said.

He will play for his fifth Dubai title, trying to add to 2009, 2010, 2011, and 2013. Tsitsipas, who lost in the Dubai final a year ago to Roger Federer, will play for his sixth career title. He won the Marseille final last weekend. □



# Ski racing community starts to back away from toxic wax

By LISA RATHKE

Associated Press

**MONTPELIER, Vt. (AP) —** At

ski races across the United States, competitors are starting to abandon a type of wax many count on for speed amid concerns it contains potentially hazardous chemicals that threaten human health and could reach streams and other critical ground-water sources.

The International Ski Federation, the governing body for international skiing, announced plans to ban the use of fluorinated waxes in all disciplines next season.

Those waxes contain perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances, collectively known as PFAS. They are commonplace in the environment and have been linked to a growing list of health problems.

Nordiq Canada, the governing body for cross-country skiing in Canada, also prohibited high and medium fluorinated waxes in most cross-country races this season. The Norwegian Ski Association, meanwhile, banned the use of fluorinated glide wax — used in both classic and skate skiing — for all athletes under



**This Feb. 8, 2020, photo shows a waxing table at a cross-country ski race at U-32 Middle & High School in East Montpelier, Vt.**

age 16 two years ago.

That leaves skiers to use hydrocarbon waxes on their skis.

"I'm very happy with the decision not to use it," said Sverre Caldwell, director of the SMS T2 team of elite cross-country ski racers, including U.S. Ski Team members, based at Stratton Mountain in Vermont. "For two reasons: one is the potential danger and the

other is, anything that kind of evens the playing field is good to me. It should be the athletes racing, not the skis racing."

The move to shift away from those particular waxes goes well beyond the professional circuit and the skiers themselves. In Vermont, the VPA Nordic High School Coaches Association decided to stop using all fluorinated glide waxes this

season, and in Maine, high fluoro waxes were banned at the state championship. Wax technicians, coaches and athletes have been heating the so-called fluoro waxes with irons on the base of skis and then scraping it off for years — often in wax rooms and trailers before a race. Many now wear masks and work in highly ventilated areas and wonder if they have suf-

fered any health problems from all that exposure to the wax. "The jury's going to start coming back with a verdict in the next couple of years about what that meant for them," said Jeff Clarke, a former U.S. cross-country ski team director who is now coaching the Stowe Middle/High School Nordic team in Vermont. Snowboarders, too, are shifting away from wax containing PFAS.

U.S. Ski & Snowboard, the national governing body for Olympic skiing and snowboarding, said it supports the International Ski Federation ban. Races below the World Cup level "have already taken action to limit and discourage the use of PFAS-containing ski waxes," said spokesperson Lara Carlton.

While coaches say they are ready for a ban, until the International Ski Federation rules go into effect the waxes still will be used in national races, and they worry about how the ban will be enforced.

The waxes make a bigger difference in cross-country skiing, particularly in warmer conditions, than in alpine skiing, coaches say. □

Associated Press

## NCAA

Continued from Page 17

Proposals must be approved by the NCAA playing rules oversight panel, which is scheduled to discuss changes April 16. New rules would go into effect for the upcoming season. Adjustments were made last year to the replay review process for targeting in an effort to have fewer marginal fouls called. Shaw said feedback was good and no further adjustments were made to a rule that often draws complaints from players, coaches and fans.

The only potential change to targeting could come after the ejection. Players have been required to leave the field after being ejected, usually escorted off by a coach or staffer in full view of fans. If the proposal passes, ejected players will be allowed to stay on the sideline with teammates, eliminating the so-called walk of shame.

Shaw said the two-minute limit for replay reviews is aimed at efficiency and trying to manage the length of games. He said there was an average of 2.2 replays per game at the FBS level.

"If you're at two minutes and you don't know the answer, it's time to let it stand and not drag

the process out," Shaw said.

The committee said it was concerned about "negative interactions" between teams before officials are on the field during pregame. There were notable pregame incidents last season where players had to be separated before Texas-Oklahoma and the Belk Bowl between Kentucky and Virginia Tech. The Belk Bowl altercation came before officials were on the field.

In addition to having officials' jurisdiction begin earlier, each team would be required to have a coach on the field when players go through pregame warmups. Plus, players would be required to wear numbers during warmups so they can be identified.

"It's a bad look for our game," said Stanford coach David Shaw, the chairman of the rules committee. "Some of these pregame shenanigans that have gone on, we want to curb some of those."

The committee also recommended no more than two players on a team can wear the same jersey number. Rules already require players wearing the same number play different positions and can not be on the field at the same time. The committee proposed zero

being added as a legal jersey number.

In regards to flopping, no one wants game officials to be required to determine the validity and severity of a player's potential injury.

The committee discussed requiring players who come out of the game after an injury timeout to sit out more than the one play that is currently required, possibly four plays or the rest of an offensive possession. But that could encourage players to try to play through legitimate injuries, Steve Shaw said.

"We didn't want to incent a guy if he's injured not to come out," Steve Shaw said.

Steve Shaw said the plan is to ask coaches to police themselves in regards to coaching players to fake injuries. If it persists, the committee will re-address it next year and could be forced to crack down.

David Shaw said the word will be spread through the American Football Coaches Association and he hopes coaches will hold each other accountable. The committee will also ask conferences to monitor.

"For us as coaches, it's a tactic that lacks integrity," David Shaw said. "It was evident enough for us to talk about. It was a bad enough look for us to talk about." □



# High-tech Chicago exhibit puts visitors eye-to-eye with MLK

By SOPHIA TAREEN

Associated Press

**CHICAGO (AP)** — Imagine being so close to Martin Luther King Jr. as he gives one of the world's most famous speeches that you notice the creases in his face and then realize the late civil rights leader is looking you square in the eye.

That's the intense personal moment organizers are striving for with a one-of-a-kind virtual reality exhibit opening Friday at Chicago's DuSable Museum of African American History. Called "The March," it captures the 1963 March on Washington during which King delivered his iconic "I Have a Dream" address.

"The speech is so well known and the ways people are used to seeing it is kind of archival, grainy two-dimensional film," said Mia Tramz, an editorial director of immersive experiences at TIME, which helped create the project. "By being able to see it with your own two eyes and feel like you're standing there, you not only get the message of the words, but the message of the energy that he put behind those words."

The project has the rare full backing from King's estate, which fiercely guards his likeness and speeches. The high-tech effort took years of research on King's gestures and expressions, as well as interviews with at-



In this Wednesday, Feb. 26, 2020 photo, actress Viola Davis, left, and her husband, Julius Tennon speak to reporters ahead of the launch of a virtual reality exhibit depicting Martin Luther King Jr.'s 'I Have a Dream' speech at the DuSable Museum of African American History in Chicago. Davis and Tennon worked with TIME magazine on the project through the couple's production studio.

Associated Press

tendees.

Creators said it was inspired by an archive image of King giving a different speech on the National Mall, shot from his perspective looking out. TIME, which features King in a March issue, worked with companies including a production studio run by actress Viola Davis and her husband, Julius Tennon. Davis narrates part of the project.

Visitors start in an dark empty room with audio of people involved in key events leading up to the march. One is Hank Thomas, who

was a Freedom Rider — activists who protested segregation by sitting in bus seats reserved for whites and who experienced violence and jail.

After that, attendees are outfitted with heavy virtual reality headsets that block out the outside world and replace it with three-dimensional glimpses of Aug. 28, 1963, on the National Mall. In what sometimes looks like a video game, visitors march along Constitution Avenue and then stand in the crowd of some 250,000. Then the scenery changes

again. Visitors find themselves standing on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial and an arm's length from King, whose hand gestures and facial expressions are brought to life. After delivering part of the speech, he walks by and locks eyes, a moment creators say is unparalleled.

"You're not listening to it. You're not reading it. You are actually in it. And there is a point that you're listening to it for the first time because you're experiencing it, because you're actually there," Davis said. "It's those

experiences that are unforgettable."

The permission from King's estate was also unusual.

Run by King's children and known to be litigious, the estate closely guards any use of King's image, name and work. The estate initially balked at plans to put a life-size commemorative King statue at the Georgia Capitol and didn't grant rights to speeches for the 2014 film "Selma," which won an Oscar for the best original song and was nominated for best picture.

Tramz declined to discuss how the project got the estate's backing. Messages left for Atlanta-based Intellectual Properties Management, which manages King's estate and controls rights to his works and images, weren't returned.

The experience isn't for the faint of heart. Participants must sign a liability waiver warning of possible risks, such as dizziness, and there's a built-in "decompression zone." The 15-minute experience isn't recommended for children under 13.

There are also limitations. Only four people can go through simultaneously and technology-related snags happen. During a media preview attended by the Associated Press, the screen blacked out and images were blurry at times. □



This June 19, 2015, file photo, shows the Federal Communications Commission building in Washington.

Associated Press

By TALI ARBEL

AP Technology Writer

**NEW YORK (AP)** — U.S. regulators have proposed fining the four major U.S. phone companies more than \$200 million com-

bined for improperly disclosing customers' real-time location to other companies.

The proposed fines by the Federal Communications Commission amounted to

## FCC proposes fines for phone companies that shared user data

\$91 million for T-Mobile, \$57 million for AT&T, \$48 million for Verizon and \$12 million for Sprint. The amounts vary based on how long each company sold the user data and how many companies and organizations it sold the data to. The phone companies can object, and the amounts could change.

Critics said the FCC took too long, and the proposed fines were too low. "Instead of meetings its obligation to come down hard on the wireless carriers that are guilty in this

case, the FCC dragged its feet and issued penalties that let these companies off easy," said Sen. Edward Markey, a Massachusetts Democrat.

Lisa Hayes of the advocacy group Center for Democracy & Technology said the FCC's "weak enforcement response" demonstrate why the U.S. needs a comprehensive privacy law.

Location data makes it possible to identify the whereabouts of nearly any phone in the U.S. within seconds.

According to published reports, phone companies were selling access to such data to little-known companies such as LocationSmart and Zumigo. These data brokers then sold the information to other "location-based" services, like prison-communications company Securus. The FCC said the phone companies failed to ask customers for consent for what companies like Securus were doing, or make sure that those companies were getting an OK from customers. □



# Managing remote workers? It takes more than the latest apps

By JOYCE M. ROSENBERG

AP Business Writer

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Nicolas Vandenberghe's company has 42 staffers scattered among 36 cities in 15 countries. As technology makes it possible for people to be in constant touch while working remotely, businesses like Chili Piper are becoming the norm.

"We have Zoom, Slack, and a myriad of other collaborative tools — do we really need the in-person water cooler meetings?" asks Vandenberghe, whose business makes software to help companies manage meetings. Vandenberghe himself is continually remote, splitting his time between Brooklyn, New York; Los Angeles and France.

Whether it means a parent working from home while caring for a sick child, a staffer who logs into a company computer daily from a coffee shop or an entire law firm that operates online, remote working is gaining momentum at small businesses. Technology that makes communication and meetings easy is a big factor in the growth of remote working, but so is the shrinking labor pool that accompanies an unemployment rate below 4% for over a year. Many companies no longer look for help close to their home base.

It's hard to find definitive statistics on how many people work remotely. Gallup's most recent survey in 2016 showed that 43% of employees worked remotely in at least some capacity; that was up 4 percentage points from 2012.

But even as remote working grows, business owners find managing offsite staffers involves more than giving them the latest technology. Communication, for example, can't be left solely to videoconferencing and messaging apps like Slack. Three of Jazmine Valencia's seven staffers are in her Los Angeles office, three are in New York and one is in Chicago. Her company, JV Agency, does marketing for the music industry. Valencia's remote staffers can



In this Feb. 20, 2020, photo Saiili Gosula, executive director of SYNERGY HomeCare of San Mateo, poses for a photo at her office in San Mateo, Calif. Gosula has a remote administrative staffer and several onsite employees at her Synergy HomeCare franchise.

Associated Press

feel left out when the onsite team discusses issues.

"I have to over-communicate and make sure everyone is on the same page. This might mean more one-on-ones, more calls and sometimes just being constantly emailing or private messaging the remote team," Valencia says. "I need to give them a sense of security."

Owners say a remote operation can't work without trust between a boss and staffers, especially because it can be difficult for an owner to know what an employee is doing during a workday. Tyler Forte recalls that when he first managed staffers remotely, "it was me checking on them probably too frequently." He worried about staffers at his real estate brokerage spending time on social media. But, "over time, you develop trust with the employee, that we're all working toward the same goal," says Forte, CEO of Felix Homes, based in Nashville, Tennessee. The company has staffers in Los Angeles. "Even if I'm not overseeing every move, I believe they are doing their best to advance the goals of the

company." Forte has found project management software, an aid many owners use, helps him keep track of what everyone is doing. Sometimes the problem is very different from staffers goofing off.

"People have this idea that if you have a remote team, they won't work," says Emma Rose Cohen, CEO of Final Straw, a maker of reusable straws that has a hub in Seattle. "It's the opposite — if you hire the right people, they're self-starters, and self-starters are often people who work too much."

She's alert to signs that any of her 15 staffers are spending too much time on the job, and when they tell her they feel burned out, tired, or stressed, Cohen says it's time to take a break. And she's very public about the fact she blocks off time for non-work things she needs to do.

One reason why employees take remote jobs is their bosses give them flextime; they can make their own hours, take time off for children's activities or to go to the gym or walk the dog. That perk can help a small business attract and retain

staffers.

But remote work is a bad fit for some employees because it often is isolating; staffers can feel disconnected and even alienated from co-workers. That can be countered to some extent through messaging channels that allow everyone to chime in on a fun discussion. Cohen has gone further, creating channels devoted to specific topics like pets or podcasts.

When Andrew DeBell hires remote staffers, he flies them to his company's home base for interviews; that's one way to increase the odds they'll work well with the team at Water Bear Learning, a Ventura, California-based company that creates educational materials.

Some owners find remote work can have a stifling effect on a team's creativity — there's no light-bulb moments as staffers pass each other in the hallway, no riffing in a meeting, no break room chats that are unexpectedly productive.

"You're able to feed off each other and brainstorm ideas better in person than when you've got several people on the phone," De-

Bell says. His company has one staffer in Denver and two in Ventura. It also has a network of freelancers in the eastern U.S.

Vandenberghe encourages staffers to go to co-working spaces so they can avoid isolation. When he needs a brainstorming session, he flies staffers to where he is so they can meet in person.

Saiili Gosula has a remote administrative staffer and several onsite employees at her Synergy HomeCare franchise in San Mateo, California, and all of her caregivers work out in the field. Gosula has some of the same issues as owners whose work is computer-based; she does a lot of communicating and informing, trying to be sure that all her office staff is on the same page.

As it turns out, Gosula uses some of the same skills with her caregivers, who are all working in sensitive, emotional situations as they care for elderly or sick people.

"We talk to them often, ask them how it's going," Gosula says. "We ask them questions every time we interact with them." □



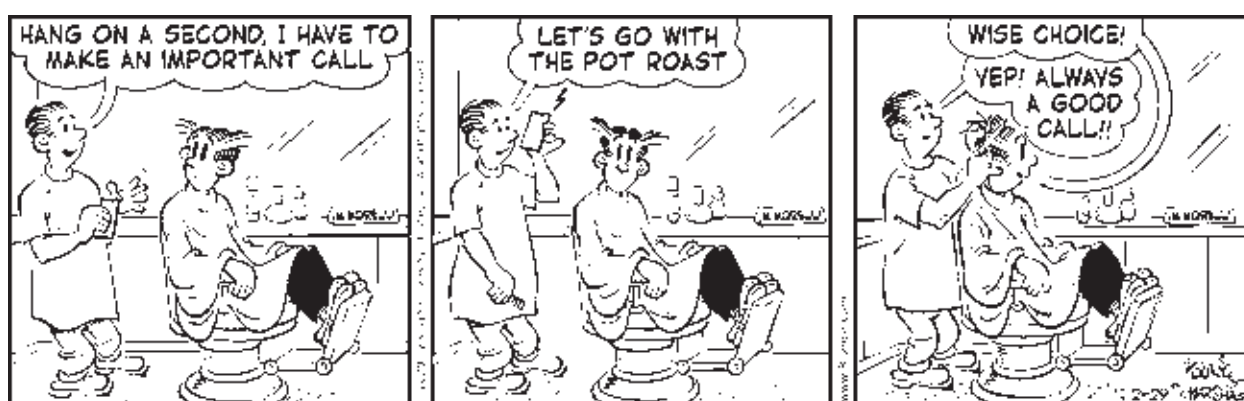
Mutts



6 Chix



Blondie



Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

2			1					
		6		3		4	7	3
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		1			6			
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Difficulty Level ★★★★★

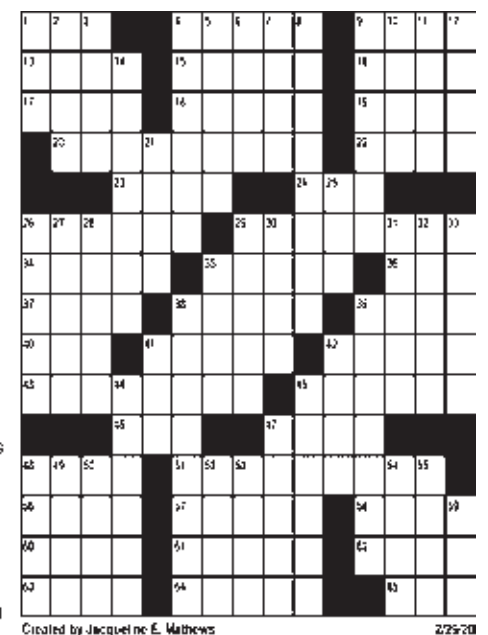
Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

2	9	6	8	4	7	5	3	1
8	3	5	6	2	1	9	4	7
1	4	7	9	5	3	2	6	8
4	2	8	7	3	5	6	1	9
6	7	9	1	8	2	4	5	3
5	1	3	4	6	9	7	8	2
9	8	1	5	7	6	3	2	4
3	5	4	2	9	8	1	7	6
7	6	2	3	1	4	8	9	5

ACROSS

- 1 Tasty sandwich, for short
- 4 Letter mailer's need
- 8 Fellow
- 13 One of displeasure
- 15 Rapids, Iowa
- 16 3,600 seconds
- 17 Apple pie recipe verb
- 18 Preach
- 19 Too
- 20 Acted
- 22 Brock yn team
- 23 Sulk
- 24 Wrath
- 26 Repeated sounds
- 29 Odd
- 34 Signifies
- 35 Yaky-yak
- 36 Ice's monogram
- 37 Taverns
- 38 Shinness
- 39 Floating ice sheet
- 40 Ending for part of govern
- 41 Short pleasure trip
- 42 Department store employee
- 43 Practice
- 45 Vary Tyler & Shemar
- 46 Car top
- 47 Precious
- 48 Pleased
- 51 Adorn
- 55 "All roads lead to"
- 57 Unsuspecting
- 58 Grand 4-run homer
- 60 Rental car company
- 61 Cribian or Van Halem
- 62 Bacteria's skirt
- 63 As rec as a
- 64 Spins
- 65 Rucy or maroon



Created by Jacqueline E. Matthews

2/29/20

Friday's Puzzle Solved

MED	A	S	T	A	R	A	P	T	S
B	A	N	D	S	T	A	L	E	R
A	R	T	S	S	A	L	M	O	N
S	S	H	S	A	L	E	S	O	N
U	N	T	I	L	M	I	A		
C	A	S	A	L	K	I	S	S	E
A	L	I	M	B	S	P	I	C	E
B	L	A	B	S	L	I	D	E	B
S	I	S	S	C	A	N	S	M	A
E	M	P	L	O	Y	C	A	N	O
S	L	O	O	P	B	R	I	N	E
C	O	N	V	E	N	I	E	N	T
A	B	L	E	B	O	I	S	E	G
R	O	Y	S	A	S	N	E	R	M

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2/29/20

DOWN

- 1 English channel
- 2 Silent pool's transfer
- 3 off left
- 4 sudden y
- 5 Haute IN
- 6 Actor West
- 7 Spouse
- 8 Foretell
- 9 No S. classic
- 10 Opening
- 11 Vienna's nation
- 12 Experts
- 14 Sunday talks
- 21 Adversaries
- 25 Have regrets about
- 26 Hot coa fragment
- 27 Stop
- 28 Severe
- 29 Lying flat
- 30 Vane direction
- 31 Couch potato
- 32 Worship
- 33 Sme s to high heaven
- 35 Adler's sign

- 36 Landscape
- 37 tender
- 38 Bouquet creator
- 41 star
- 42 Fue for some
- 44 Firstborn
- 45 Wild brawl's
- 47 Satan
- 48 Snatch
- 49 Reason to wed
- 50 French girlfriend
- 52 Created
- 53 one's time
- 54 Sanderous remark
- 55 Desert
- 59 Soft, wet dirt





Tela Troge, right, a lawyer for the Shinnecock Indian Nation from Southampton, N.Y., speaks outside federal court Wednesday, Feb. 5, 2020, in Boston.

Associated Press

## Appeals court denies tribe's quest for casino land

By PHILIP MARCELO  
Associated Press

**BOSTON (AP)** — A federal appeals court has ruled against a Native American tribe that had been granted sovereign land to build a casino in Massachusetts. The U.S. Court of Appeals in Boston on Thursday upheld a lower court decision declaring the federal government had not been authorized to take land into trust for the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe in 2015. The lower court ruled the tribe didn't qualify because it wasn't officially

recognized in 1934, when the federal Indian Reorganization Act became law. The Cape Cod-based tribe, which traces its ancestry to the Native Americans that shared a fall harvest meal with the Pilgrims in 1621, gained federal recognition in 2007. Despite the ruling, the tribe said its years-long battle is far from over. Its 321 acres remain in federal trust because a separate case is pending in federal court in Washington, D.C., Cedric Cromwell, the tribe's chairman, said in a statement. □

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This Sunday, Dec. 22, 2019 file photo shows the Boeing Starliner spacecraft after it landed in White Sands, N.M.

Associated Press

## Boeing blames incomplete testing for astronaut capsule woes

By **MARCIA DUNNLE**  
Associated Press

**CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP)** — Boeing acknowledged Friday it failed to conduct full and adequate software tests before the botched space debut of its astronaut capsule late last year.

A software error left the Starliner capsule in the wrong orbit in December and precluded a docking with the International Space Station. Another software flaw could have ended up destroying the capsule, if not fixed right before reentry.

A Boeing vice president, John Mulholland, said both mistakes would have been caught if complete, end-to-end testing had been conducted in advance and actual flight equipment used instead of substitutes.

"We know that we need to improve," he said.

The company is still uncertain when its next test flight might occur and whether astronauts might be aboard. NASA — which will have the final say — will announce the outcome of the ongoing investigation review next Friday. The first flight test had no crew.

SpaceX, meanwhile, aims to launch its Dragon crew capsule with NASA astronauts this spring.

Mulholland, who serves as the Starliner program manager, said the company is still reviewing the Starliner's 1 million lines of code to make certain no other problems exist. Because Boeing tested the Starliner's software in segments rather than in one continuous stream to simulate the flight to and from the space station, the company failed to catch an error that knocked the capsule's internal timer off by 11 hours shortly after liftoff. An unrelated communication problem prevented flight controllers from quickly sending commands in a bid to salvage the docking portion of the mission.

Then, just hours before the capsule's early return to New Mexico, a second software error was detected by ground controllers. This mistake stemmed from the use of substitute equipment during preflight testing rather than actual flight hardware. □



Sean de Guzman, chief of snow surveys for the California Department of Water Resources, right, checks the depth of the snow pack as DWR's Chief of State Water Project Operations Molly White, center, records the information during the third snow survey of the season at Phillips Station near Echo Summit, Calif., Thursday, Feb. 27, 2020.

Associated Press

## California is abnormally dry after low-precipitation winter

By **OLGA R. RODRIGUEZ**  
**SAN FRANCISCO (AP)** — A

dry beginning of the year has left most of California abnormally parched, as officials brace for the possibility of an early and more intense wildfire season amid record-breaking temperatures.

Drought has expanded from just under 10% of the state last week to nearly a quarter, mainly in central California, the heart of the state's agricultural sector, according to a U.S. Drought Monitor map made public Thursday. The map released weekly shows another 43% of the state is now abnormally dry.

This month is shaping up to be the driest February on record for much of the state. Chances of light showers are on the horizon Saturday night but not again until March 10.

Sierra Littlefield, a National Weather Service meteorologist in Sacramento, said there is a strong chance the state's capital will see a completely dry February — something that has not happened in recorded history.

Downtown San Francisco is on its way to its first rain-free February since 1864, according to the weather service.

The lack of rain this year comes after a wet 2019 that capped mountains with snow, delivering water to reservoirs and helping to boost lush vegetation that can quickly turn into fuel for wildfires during dry, windy conditions.

About 75% of California's annual precipitation typically occurs from December through February, mostly from what's known as atmospheric rivers — long plumes of moisture originating far out in the Pacific Ocean.

But a high-pressure system parked in the Pacific has blocked storms from reaching California and instead steered them to the Pacific Northwest.

"California and parts of the Southwest dried out while the Northwest observed surplus precipitation," wrote NOAA meteorologist David Miskus, who issued this week's Drought Monitor report.

A similar high-pressure system led to a statewide drought from 2011 to 2017 that prompted then-Gov. Jerry Brown to order California's nearly 40 million people to cut water use by 25% — the first mandate of its kind in the state.

Californians heeded the call, taking shorter showers and ripping out their

lawns during the five-year drought. State water officials said Thursday that it's too early to consider conservation measures and pointed out reservoirs statewide are either at or above their historical averages for this time of year.

"A few dry months really doesn't make a drought," said Chris Orrock, a spokesman for the Department of Water Resources.

"If we have to go through two dry years, then we start looking at what additional conservation measures we need."

In another sign of California's dry conditions, state officials on Thursday conducted a survey of the Sierra Nevada snowpack and found it was 47% of the March average at the Sierra's Phillips Station.

The first reading on Jan. 2 found the snowpack was 97% of the January average. But dry conditions since then have hurt snowfall, which supplies about 30% of California's water.

"February rain and snow were quite disappointing," said Sean de Guzman, chief of the department's snow surveys and water supply forecasting section. "We'll most likely end this water year below average. We just don't know how far below." □

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24/7



# Nazi cautionary dramas wade into political, factual disputes

By LYNN ELBER

AP Television Writer

**LOS ANGELES (AP)** — Hollywood mustered its creative forces in the 1940s when Adolf Hitler's Nazi Germany sought to conquer the world, with Humphrey Bogart standing up to the fascist regime in "Casablanca" and director Ernst Lubitsch mocking it and its dictator in "To Be or Not to Be."

More than 70 years later, an increase in hate crimes, emboldened white supremacists and political upheaval have prompted TV and film makers to revisit Nazism. The works are varied and their receptions mixed, but they share a goal: to use fiction to learn from 20th-century totalitarianism and its horrors, including the Holocaust that claimed the lives of 6 million Jews.

In Amazon's "Hunters," an unlikely group of 1970s New Yorkers target German Nazis who have brought their genocidal quest to America. HBO's "The Plot Against America" is based on Philip Roth's novel that posits a repressive early 1940s U.S. government led by Charles Lindbergh, the real-life aviation hero and anti-Semitic isolationist. The Oscar-winning "Jojo Rabbit" is in Lubitsch's satirical mode, deepened by tragedy.

Preceding them was "The Man in the High Castle," the 2015-19 Amazon series based on Philip K. Dick's sci-fi novel of the same name about a fallen America ruled by WWII victors Germany and Japan.

The war has had other screen comebacks. During the political and social turmoil of the mid- to late-1960s, cynical and irreverent films including "King Rat" and "What Did You Do in the War, Daddy?" were released alongside traditional battle epics such as the star-laden "Battle of the Bulge."

"We seem to have waves of interest in both the Holocaust and World War II, not always at the same time," said Sharon Willis, a film scholar and professor at the University of Rochester in New York. "I feel



This image released by HBO shows John Turturro in a scene from "The Plot Against America." Associated Press

that, collectively, we return to these terrains when we have some kind of problem to work out that we think is related to them."

David Simon, executive producer of "The Plot Against America," unabashedly labels the six-episode series debuting March 16 "a political piece." The cast includes Winona Ryder and John Turturro, and early reviews were admiring.

"It's a critique of xenophobia and demagoguery and the use of 'the other,' the fear of 'the other' to drive political power and to create a political dynamic," Simon said, a pattern that he said predates President Donald Trump. "The demonization of the immigrant cohort has been going on for as long as the republic."

Ironically, he'd originally passed on bringing Roth's novel to the screen because it appeared irrelevant.

"The first time somebody approached me about the adaptation was in 2013, right after (President Barack) Obama's second inauguration. And I thought to myself that it seemed like an artifact" in an increasingly inclusive society, Simon said. The subsequent election and its results forced him to reconsider that view, he said, citing restrictive immigration poli-

cies as an area of profound concern.

The late Roth's book proved "allegorical to what we're dealing with now, and the vulnerable cohorts now are not necessarily Jewish Americans, although anti-Semitism has increased," Simon said. "The real vulnerable (groups) are people with black and brown skin, immigrants and Muslims."

As for why he's asking viewers to seek clarity in the rear-view mirror, Simon said that history provides a sturdy, well-vetted foundation on which to build a meaningful allegory. "If we can't apply it to the future, then all that history is pretty useless," he said.

David Weil, creator of "Hunters" starring Al Pacino and Logan Lerman, shares Simon's belief in the power of such storytelling.

"I think sometimes the best way for us to grapple with the truths of our reality and our present is to see it through a different prism and a different lens," said Weil. "So I used the lens of 1977 America to speak about the kind of racism and xenophobia and anti-Semitism that we're continuing to face today, to allow people to really try and take a step back."

Weil's direct inspiration was his grandmother, Sara Weil, a survivor of Auschwitz-Birkenau and Bergen-

Belsen, which were among the concentration camps where the German-ordered mass killings of Jews and millions of others were carried out. The stories of hardship that he heard from her as a child eventually fueled Weil's desire to honor her experience and, through his work, become a Holocaust avenger and a "superhero, in some way." There have been Oscar-worthy films about the Holocaust, Weil said, but he wanted to dramatize the tragedy and its aftermath in an unconventional way. He described his approach as "bold and pulpy and fresh," one that invites a new audience to enter the story through the perspective of characters such as Lerman's young hunter, Jonah.

"In doing so, they'll begin to learn about the truth of the Holocaust and the plight of Jewish people and the plight of all 'others,'" Weil said.

Creative license may be allowed for tone or even the wholesale creation of a band of Nazi hunters, but tampering with the facts of a hallowed event crosses the line for some. A scene in which inmates of the Auschwitz camp in Poland act out a fatal chess game never occurred, according to the site's museum and memorial, which in a re-

cent statement called such inventions "dangerous foolishness and caricature."

Weil responded that the drama was not a documentary and he'd carefully avoided borrowing a specific moment from an actual person's life. That failed to satisfy Rabbi Marvin Hier, founder of the Simon Wiesenthal Center in Los Angeles that's named for the death camp survivor and real-life Nazi hunter.

While dramas can help educate people about Nazism, Hier said, such projects must be labeled a fictional account of a real event or risk giving fodder to Holocaust deniers.

Pete Simi, co-author of "American Swastika: Inside the White Power Movement's Hidden Spaces of Hate" and a professor at Chapman University in Southern California, sees potential in Hollywood's focus on Nazi Germany. One reason: it can help expose the followers who are "re-branding" themselves in a bid to make white supremacy palatable.

"The more we understand what the Nazis represented, the more we are able to analyze the contemporary versions of Nazis" and avoid being deceived by their efforts to subvert "what they actually represent," Simi said.

Simon said he'd like to see "The Plot Against America" make waves of its own.

"In a perfect world, this project gets off the entertainment pages and is argued on the editorial pages or op-ed pages," he said. "That's the reason to do it, is to have the argument now, because civil liberties are being affronted now. American institutions and American norms are under duress right now." □





# Film Review: 'Invisible Man' is a cunning if empty remake

By JAKE COYLE  
Associated Press

Unraveling the dusted bandages of H.G. Wells' classic 1897 science-fiction novel, writer-director Leigh Whannell has refashioned "The Invisible Man" as a bracingly modern #MeToo allegory that, despite its brutal craft, rings hollow. Our image of Wells' villain — the white wrappings, the dark sunglasses — comes largely from James Whale's

also-classic 1933 film. This "Invisible Man" might have stayed closer to that vision had a box-office bust not interfered. After "The Mummy," with Tom Cruise, fizzled, Universal Pictures canceled its Marvel-esque monster franchise dubbed the Dark Universe. Out went plans for Johnny Depp as the Invisible Man. In came a violent, low-budget Blumhouse-produced re-imagining from the co-



This image released by Universal Pictures shows Elisabeth Moss in a scene from "The Invisible Man."

takes refuge in the home of a childhood friend, a police officer (Aldis Hodge), and his daughter (Storm Reid). There, she trembles with dread at the thought of Adrian coming for her. Her intense paranoia is only momentarily relieved when she gets news that he has killed himself. But when she begins to sense an eerie presence, and notice things like an unexplained imprint on the rug, Cecilia knows that Adrian — "a world-leader in optics" capable of extreme discoveries — is still with her. "He's not dead," she says. "I just can't see him."

A pervasive terror cloaks the movie. It's elevated considerably by Moss, an actress thoroughly at home in the most prickly, anxious and unsettling situations. Her Cecilia is a portrait of a woman desperately clawing for her freedom, but haunted by the specter, real or imagined, of her terrorizing ex. Trembling and tortured, Moss makes her stalking terrifyingly palpable.

But there's also a sense, from early on, that "The Invisible Man" is more interested in utilizing a clever and timely conceit for jump scares and muscular, half-visible action sequences than for any genuine exploration of Cecilia's psychology. □

Associated Press

creator of the "Saw" franchise. The bandages and shades, needless to say, didn't make the cut. Instead, this "Invisible Man" has shifted its focus from Wells' optics scientist to a woman, Cecilia (Elisabeth Moss), running from him and fleeing a toxic relationship. In the movie's breathtaking opening (one seemingly modeled after "Sleeping With the Enemy"), she carefully, with disgust on her face, lifts the

hand draped over her in bed. With barely hushed panic, she makes her well-planned nighttime escape from his bleakly modernist seaside house while the sound of waves pummeling the northern California shoreline thunder around her.

The man, Adrian (Oliver Jackson-Cohen), we don't quite see. But we immediately get a vivid sense of his abusiveness from Cecilia's white-knuckle fear. She

## The Abbey Road Institute opens its 1st U.S. school in miami



Awards hang on the wall in Colombian producer Julio Reyes Copello's new Abbey Road Institute on Tuesday, Feb. 25, 2020, in Miami.

Associated Press

By GISELA SALOMON  
Associated Press  
Miami (AP) — One of the

world's leading music studios has set its sights on Miami, with the help of a

Grammy-winning Colombian music producer. Abbey Road Studios, where legendary bands like The Beatles and Pink Floyd recorded their albums, will open its first U.S. music school in Miami in partnership with the Miami Art House Studio, a recording studio founded by top music producer Julio Reyes Copello, who has worked with stars like Ricky Martin, Jennifer Lopez and Marc Anthony. The project is an extension of the Abbey Road Institute, a music production education program held at the Abbey Road Studios in London. □

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FRI 6:40 8:50 | 11:00  
SAT 2:20 4:30 6:40 | 8:50 | 11:00  
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PBP MON-THU 5:30 7:35 9:40  
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JAMES MARSDEN | JIM CARREY  
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES  
PG  
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PBP MON-THU 4:20 6:35 8:50  
FRI 4:20 6:35 8:50 | 11:05  
SAT 2:05 4:20 6:35 8:50 | 11:05  
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# Chloe sparkles as giant Paris fashion exhibit space opens

By THOMAS ADAMSON

AP Fashion Writer

**PARIS (AP)** — Chloe teemed with sparkling detailing at Paris Fashion Week Thursday.

The lofty Grand Palais, decorated with giant gold totems had starry guests to match — including actresses Katie Holmes and Kate Bosworth — and added to the glint of the stylish fall-winter 2020 collection. Here are some of the day's highlights:

## CHLOE GOES REGAL-CASUAL

Designer Natacha Ramsay-Levi clung to the floppy and boho house DNA forged in the 1970s.

Long silvery organic earrings followed foliage-like necklaces, silver eyelets on collars, shiny rings and bracelets, gold handbag chains and buckles. The columns glimmered in the background.

But even though the French designer piled on the detailing — in the polka-dot gowns, contrasting textures, floral prints, giant long silk ribbons flowing down from the neck — it never veered into heavy-handedness. Styles moved from the retro, such as one checked knitted sweater worn with loose leather pants in autumnal copper, to the ethereal: Silk lace gowns cinched at the waist with an almost Balkan-looking angular silhouette on the torso. It made for an accomplished show. Chloe is credited with inventing the concept of ready-to-wear clothing, and this show impressively trod a path between the insouciant ethos — one that doesn't try to impress too much — that is the house signature, and a quasi-regal style.

## WORLD'S LARGEST FASHION EXHIBITION SPACE OPENS

Paris' Musee des Arts Decoratifs — which is attached to the Louvre — inaugurated to the press Thursday a fully-renovated 1,300 square meter (14,000 square foot) wing dedicated to fashion.

The museum says that the so-called "Fashion Galleries" is now the world's

largest fashion exhibition space.

The landmark renovation, fruit of a multi-million private donation, is being launched with a show called 'Harper's Bazaar, First in Fashion' that traces the fashion magazine's history. It will run through July 14, 2020. Spanning two floors, the multimedia exhibit showcases glimmering gowns by greats such as Schiaparelli and Vionnet as it takes the visitor not only through the history of the magazine launched in the 19th century, but the history of fashion itself.

Harper's Bazaar was one of the first magazines to feature a bikini in 1947, and that garment is featured in the show. It prompted Diana Vreeland, the magazine's fashion editor from 1937 to 1962, to proclaim that "the bikini is the most important thing since the atom bomb."

## RICK OWENS' HUMANOID

"Game of Thrones" actress Gwendoline Christie brought star power to Rick Owens' front row, in a character-appropriate warrior creation with black peaked shoulders. It prompted smiles and camera snaps from guests.

As the show began, models in sheeny space-cowboy boots stomped out, while



A model wears a creation for the Rick Owens fashion collection during Women's fashion week Fall/Winter 2020/21 presented in Paris, Thursday, Feb. 27, 2020.

Associated Press

smoke billowed onto the runway. It kept on pumping and, in a surreal twist, ended up completely obscuring the bottom half of the designs.

The American designer was on tried-and-tested territory this fall with a glam rock-meets-space-age vibe in muted shades with rich flashes of electric blue.

There was nothing particularly new in Thursday's collection — but it still made for a funky showing.

The aggressive, peaked-shoulder aesthetic was once again twinned with large cuffs and exaggeratedly long sleeves that made the human limbs seem spindly. Leather biker's pants sported extra-defined segments in the knees to evoke insects, or humanoids.

## ATLEIN

Atlein, a French brand committed to sustainable design whose name is inspired by the Atlantic Ocean, focuses on the body and energy and movement.

In this show, designer Antonin Tron again merged the Parisian fashion traditions of draping, ruching and wrapping with a casual vibe and sporty silhouette in gowns that allowed fluidity in movement.

This season saw him add more decorative touches to the minimalist aesthetic — that was forged by studies in Antwerp.

Tron was also in a dark mood mood for fall.

Lashings of black, faux-snake and sensual lingerie-like trimmings graced many of the 33 designs, which the designer has said have no lining and are often made of jersey fabric. □

# Lee Phillip Bell, co-creator of popular soaps, dies at 91



This Aug. 26, 2015 photo released by the Television Academy shows Lee Phillip Bell at the Television Academy's 67th Emmy Daytime Peer Group Celebration in Beverly Hills, Calif.

Associated Press

By BETH HARRIS

Associated Press

**LOS ANGELES (AP)** — Lee Phillip Bell, who co-created "The Young and the Rest-

less" and "The Bold and the Beautiful" and hosted her own daytime talk show in Chicago for 33 years, has died. She was 91. Bell died

Tuesday of natural causes at her home in Los Angeles, according to Eva Basler, a spokeswoman for the family and their company Bell-Phillip Television Productions.

"Our mother was a loving and supportive wife, mother and grandmother," her family said in a statement. "Gracious and kind, she enriched the lives of all who knew her. We will miss her tremendously."

Bell and her husband William J. Bell co-created two of daytime television's most successful and enduring dramas. "Y&R" has been on the air since 1973, while "The Bold and the Beautiful" will mark its 33rd anniversary in March.

Born in Chicago on June 9, 1928, Bell began her career as a broadcast journalist in her hometown, where she hosted and produced her eponymous daytime talk show from 1953-1986 on WBBM-TV, the local CBS affiliate. She explored timely social issues and concerns, while also interviewing Presidents Gerald Ford and Ronald Reagan, Judy Garland, Clint Eastwood, Oprah Winfrey, Lucille Ball and the Beatles and Rolling Stones. She won 16 regional Emmy Awards for her show. Bell also produced and narrated several award-winning specials and documentaries on such topics as foster children, rape and divorce. □



# 'Into the Wild' lures the unprepared to Alaska wilderness

By RACHEL D'ORO

Associated Press

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP)

— For nearly a quarter-century, the old bus abandoned in Alaska's punishing wilderness has drawn adventurers seeking to retrace the steps of a young idealist who met a tragic death in the derelict vehicle.

For many, Christopher McCandless' legend was cemented in the 1996 "Into the Wild" book and later in the movie. But scores of travelers following his journey along the Stampede Trail just outside Denali National Park have been rescued and others have died in the harsh reality of backcountry terrain.

The area is marked by no cell phone service, unpredictable weather and the raging Teklanika River, whose swollen banks prevented the 24-year-old Virginian from seeking help before his 1992 starvation death.

Now families of some of those who died are proposing looking at building a footbridge over the Teklanika. The effort is led by the husband of a 24-year-old newlywed woman from Belarus who died last year trying to reach the bus.

"People keep going there despite multiple accidents reported," said Piotr Markielau, who was with his wife Veramika Maikamava when she was swept away by the river. "Making the crossing safer is a social responsibility. It is also a constructive and humane way to learn from people who died there."

But some local officials in Denali Borough in Healy, about 25 miles (40 kilometers) away, fear a footbridge could give people a false impression of safety that doesn't exist. There are other hazards, including harsh weather and dangerous terrain. Some attempting the trip are ill-prepared. "It'll only encourage more people to go," says Denali Assembly member Jeff Stenger, who rejects the bridge idea and would prefer to see warning signs posted in the area.

Borough Mayor Clay Walk-



This March 21, 2006, file photo, shows the abandoned bus where Christopher McCandless starved to death in 1992 on Stampede Road near Healy, Alaska.

Associated Press



In this June 20, 2008, file photo, the road sign for Stampede Road is seen in Healy, Alaska.

Associated Press

er wants to see the bus relocated to a safer location on the other side of the Teklanika with the help of federal and state agencies.

"This bus has meaning to a lot of people, and the challenge will be to put together a plan that works for all," Walker said.

A bridge would not have made a difference in the latest rescue. It involved five Italian tourists — one with frostbitten feet — who were rescued Saturday after visiting the dilapidated bus.

The long-discarded bus sits in a clearing on state land roughly half a mile (0.8 kilometers) from the boundary of the Denali National Park and Preserve.

Travelers often traverse park land to get to the bus.

It was left in the wilderness as a backcountry shelter for hunters and trappers after it was used to house construction crews working to improve the trail so trucks could haul ore from a mine, according to the book. It's outfitted with a barrel stove and bunks.

The bus was abandoned when McCandless encountered it and wrote in his journal about living there for 114 days, right up until his death.

Author Jon Krakauer, who wrote "Into the Wild," said he is "saddened and hor-

rified" by the deaths of people trying to cross the Teklanika. He's also skeptical building a bridge or moving the bus will solve the problem.

"I really don't know what can be done or should be done about the unprepared 'pilgrims' who get into trouble and perish or need to be rescued," he said in an email to The Associated Press. "I have no objection to removing the bus, or building a bridge to it, if a persuasive argument can be made that doing either of these things would solve the problem. I am skeptical about the wisdom of either of these proposed measures, however."

McCandless' sister agrees. Carine McCandless believes people will keep trying to reach the site, regardless of what locals decide. She said people send her messages every day from all over the world, identifying with her brother's story, and she understands why people continue to make the trek.

"It is not Chris's story they are following, it is their own, even if they don't realize it at the time," she said. "And as far as the lure of the bus — it's not about the bus, either. If the bus is moved, people will simply erect a memorial in its place and continue to go there." □



In this June 20, 2008, file photo, the Stampede Road becomes a narrow, rutted four-wheel drive trail after eight miles from its intersection with the George Parks Highway in Healy, Alaska.

Associated Press